



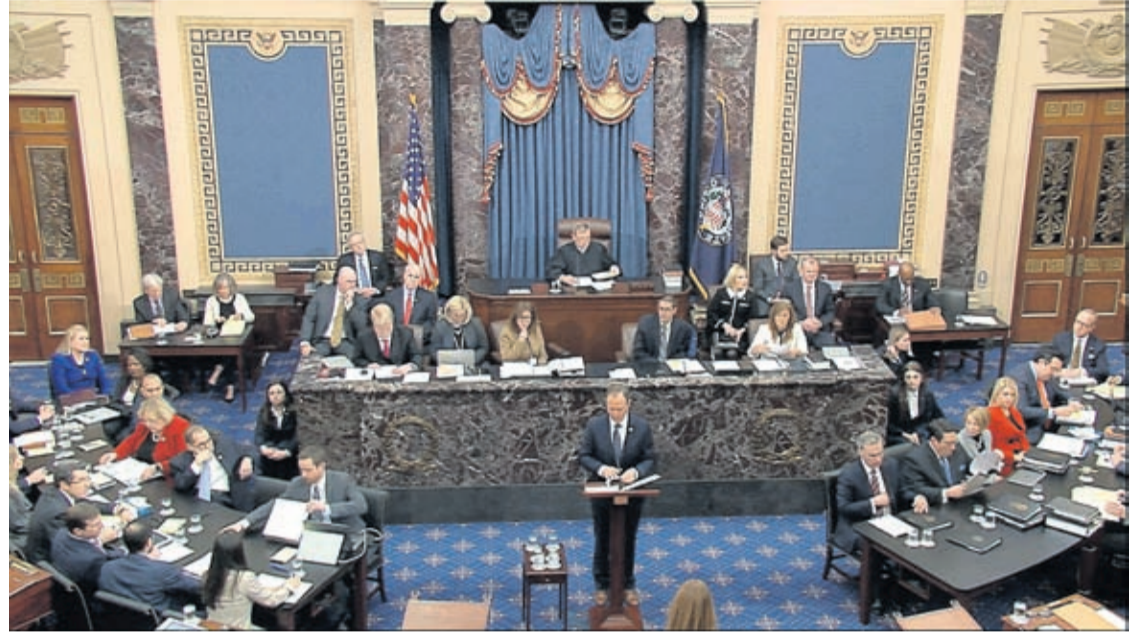
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## AP-NORC poll: Public doubts Senate trial will be revealing

WASHINGTON (AP) — Americans are sharply divided along party lines about whether President Donald Trump should be removed from office, and they doubt the Senate impeachment trial will do anything to change their minds, according to a poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. Overall, the public is slightly more likely to say the Sen-

ate should convict and remove Trump from office than to say it should not, 45% to 40%. But a sizable percentage, 14%, say they don't know enough to have an opinion. Americans on both sides of the debate say they feel strongly about their positions, and three-quarters say it's not very likely or not at all likely that the trial will introduce new information that would change their minds.

Continued on Next Page



In this image from video, House impeachment manager Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., speaks during the impeachment trial against President Donald Trump in the Senate at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2020.

Associated Press

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**Continued from Front**

Linda Valenzuela, 46, of Las Cruces, New Mexico, leans Democrat and said she is certain that Trump acted unlawfully in pressuring Ukraine's leader, Volodymyr Zelenskiy, to investigate activities by former Vice President Joe Biden, a Trump political rival, and his son Hunter in the Eastern European nation.

But Valenzuela also said that it is "not at all likely" that she will hear anything from Trump's defense team during the trial that would change her mind about the president.

"I know what he did was not legal," she said.

Similarly, Jackie Perry, 59, a Republican from Carrollton, Georgia, said that she was certain that Trump had acted within the law. She said she could not envision her position on Trump changing because of evi-

dence or testimony presented in the trial.

Perry, who cast her first-ever ballot in the presidential election in 2016 for Trump, said her opinion of the president is shaped by how he's handled the economy. The national unemployment rate is 3.5% and has been hovering near a 50-year-low for months.

"This is a person who has helped our country, I think, more than any president has," Perry said. "He's done so much for us. Our economy is flourishing again for the first time in many years. There are 'help wanted' signs everywhere you go now. Our country is getting back up again. That to me is the important thing."

About 8 in 10 Republicans think the Senate should not convict and remove Trump from office, compared with roughly the same share of Democrats who say Trump

should be convicted and removed. Overall, confidence in the Senate to conduct a fair trial of the president is limited, though Republicans are more likely than Democrats to say it will be a fair trial. A slim majority of Republicans think Trump has done nothing wrong in his interactions with Ukraine's president, though that share has declined slightly from an AP-NORC poll in October — 64% then compared with 54% now. Roughly another third now think Trump did something unethical but not illegal, while just about 1 in 10 thinks he did something illegal. By comparison, roughly three-quarters of Democrats say Trump did something illegal in his interactions with Zelenskiy. Democrats brought articles of impeachment against Trump for abuse of power and obstruction of Con-



**In this image from video, presiding officer Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts speaks during the impeachment trial against President Donald Trump in the Senate at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2020.**

**Associated Press**

gress for actions related to his decision to temporarily withhold nearly \$400 million in military aid to Ukraine last year. Democrats contend that move was made to push Zelenskiy to target Hunter Biden for criminal investigation. The younger Biden had served on the board of a Ukrainian energy company. Officials in Ukraine have said they have found no wrongdoing in Hunter Biden's service on the board.

To Chester Trahan, Trump has "used the United States government's mechanism for his own personal benefit as opposed to benefit of the United States of America." The 80-year-old Democrat from Palm Coast, Florida, added: "He has more or less blackmailed an ally to get something he wants." Trump's approval rating has remained within the narrow range it has consistently occupied throughout his presidency. The new poll shows 41% approve of his performance, similar to what it was in December and throughout the fall.

About half of Americans think Trump's administration is cooperating too little with the trial, while about 4 in 10 think the level of cooperation is about right.

"Everything that the Democrats have done has been without basis or merit," said Robert Feller, 67, a Republi-

can from Millville, New Jersey. He said he approves of the level of cooperation offered by the administration. Democrats "are on a fishing expedition," he said. "It feels like they started with a guilty verdict and are in search of a crime."

One question there's widespread agreement on: Trump should allow top aides to appear as witnesses at the trial. About 7 in 10 said so, including majorities of Republicans and Democrats.

Trump repeated Wednesday that he would like to have his top advisers testify, but said it could create national security concerns. Jay Sekulow, a Trump personal attorney serving on his impeachment team, argues that Trump's communications with his advisers are privileged information.

"The administration is not cooperating at all," said Andrew Collins, 31, Democratic-leaning resident of Gainesville, Florida. He said Trump "should be mandated have his aides appear as witnesses. What kind of world do we live in that we can't hear from witnesses to a crime?"

Perry, the Republican Trump supporter from Georgia, said she, too, thought that top advisers should testify but for a different reason: They hold the keys to exonerating the president. □

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# U.S. to impose visas restrictions for pregnant women

By MATTHEW LEE and COLLEEN LONG

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration is coming out with new visa restrictions aimed at restricting "birth tourism," in which women travel to the U.S. to give birth so their children can have a coveted U.S. passport.

The State Department planned to publicize the rules Thursday, according to two officials with knowledge of the plans who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of

anonymity. The rules would make it more difficult for pregnant women to travel on tourist visas. In one draft of the regulations, they would have to clear an additional hurdle before obtaining the visas — convincing a consular officer that they have another legitimate reason to come to the U.S.

The Trump administration has been restricting all forms of immigration, but the president has been particularly plagued by the issue of birthright citizenship — anyone born in the U.S.

is considered a citizen, under the Constitution. He has railed against the practice and threatened to end it, but scholars and members of his administration have said it's not so easy to do. Regulating tourist visas for pregnant women is one way to get at the issue, but it raises questions about how officers would determine whether a woman is pregnant to begin with, and whether a woman could get turned away by border officers who suspect she may be just by looking at her. □



In this Sept. 2017 file photo, a flag is waved outside the White House, in Washington.

Associated Press

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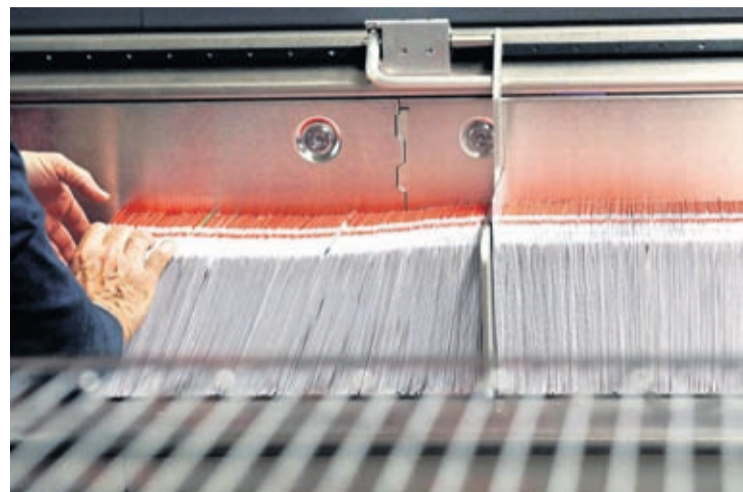

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This Nov. 7, 2018, file photo shows an election worker stacking ballots into a sorting machine at the King County Elections office in Renton, Wash.

Associated Press

## Obscure Seattle election offers experiment in online voting

**SEATTLE (AP)** — An election for a volunteer board in the Seattle area is so obscure that voter turnout is typically less than 1%. Officials are giving online voting a trial run this year to try to boost turnout and explore how it might work in a bigger election. It will be the first election in the country in which every

registered voter is eligible to vote online, using their phone or a touch-screen device, The Seattle Times reported Wednesday, citing Tusk Philanthropies. The nonprofit is partnering with King County on the pilot project during the race for the King Conservation District Board of Supervisors. "This election could be a key step in moving toward electronic access and return for voters across the region," said Julie Wise, county elections director. "My role here is to remove barriers to voting." Online voting trials also have been offered in a few other states for absentee and military voters, but many security experts have warned against expanding it, saying it could be vulnerable to hacking. Wise acknowledged that many people may be leery about voting online. "There's a lot of things we do online — banking, health records — that are also of concern for people that are secure," Wise said.

"I've vetted this, technology experts in the region have vetted this to ensure that this is a safe, secure voting opportunity." Washington Secretary of State Kim Wyman said she was not convinced. She said her office, which does not oversee conservation district elections, learned of the plan only this week. She said she is seeking to roll back electronic ballot returns in the state and would closely monitor what happens in the conservation district election. "Cyber experts I have worked with, including the FBI, the Department of Homeland Security, and the Washington National Guard, overwhelmingly have identified electronic transmission as too risky for voting and could leave voter information and election infrastructure impaired," she said in a statement Wednesday. "As the chief election officer for the state of Washington, I'm not willing to take that risk." □

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## New rules could bump emotional-support animals from planes

By **DAVID KOENIG**  
AP Airlines Writer

The days of passengers bringing rabbits, turtles and birds on planes as emotional-support animals could be ending.

The U.S. Department of Transportation on Wednesday proposed that only specially trained dogs qualify as service animals, which must be allowed in the cabin at no charge. Airlines could let passengers bring other animals on board, but hefty fees would apply.

Airlines say the number of support animals has been growing dramatically in recent years, and they have lobbied to tighten the rules. They also imposed their own restrictions in response to passengers who show up at the airport with pigs, pheasants, turkeys, snakes and other unusual pets.

"This is a wonderful step in the right direction for people like myself who are dependent on and reliant on legitimate service animals that perform a task to mitigate our disability," said Albert Rizzi, founder of My Blind Spot, which advocates for accessibility for people of different ability levels.

The U.S. airline industry trade group praised the tighter rules. Industry officials believe that hundreds of thousands of passengers scam the system each year by claiming they need their pet for emotional support. Those people avoid airline pet fees, which are generally more than \$100 each

way.

"Airlines want all passengers and crew to have a safe and comfortable flying experience, and we are confident the proposed rule will go a long way in ensuring a safer and healthier experience for everyone," said Nicholas Calio, president of Airlines for America.

Flight attendants had pushed to rein in support animals, too, and were pleased with Wednesday's proposed changes.

"The days of Noah's Ark in the air are hopefully coming to an end," said Sara Nelson, president of the Association of Flight Attendants. The union chief said untrained pets had hurt some of her members.

Veterans groups have sided with the airlines, arguing that a boom in untrained dogs and other animals threatens their ability to fly with properly trained service dogs. Last year, more than 80 veterans and disability groups endorsed banning untrained emotional-support animals in airline cabins.

"It's just interesting how people want to have the benefits of having a disability without actually losing the use of their limbs or senses just so they can take their pet with them," Rizzi said.

Southwest Airlines handles more than 190,000 emotional support animals per year. American Airlines carried 155,790 emotional support animals in 2017, up 48% from 2016, while the number of checked pets dropped 17%. United Air-

lines carried 76,000 comfort animals in 2017.

Department officials said in a briefing with reporters that they are proposing the changes to ensure safety on flights. They also said some passengers have abused the current rules.

The public will have 60 days to comment on the proposed changes, and they could take effect any time after that. The Transportation Department proposes a narrow definition of a service animal — it would be a dog that is trained to help a person with a physical or other disability. Passengers who want to travel with a service dog will have to fill out a federal form on which they swear that the dog is trained to help them with their disability. A dog that is trained to help a passenger with psychiatric needs would continue to qualify as a service animal. Currently, passengers have been allowed to bring many other animals if they have a medical professional's note saying they need the animal for emotional support.

The proposal would prohibit airlines from banning particular types of dog breeds — Delta Air Lines bans pit bulls, for example — but airline employees could refuse to board any animal that they consider a threat to other people.

The president of the Humane Society of the United States said airlines had "maligned" pit bulls by banning them. Kitty Block said the Transportation Depart-



In this Sept. 20, 2017, file photo Oscar the cat sits in his carry on travel bag after arriving at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport in Phoenix.

Associated Press

ment's rule against breed-specific prohibitions "sends a clear message to airlines that their discriminatory practices are not only unsound, but against the law." The new rules would also bar the current practice by many airlines of requiring animal owners to fill out paperwork 48 hours in advance. A department official said that practice can harm disabled people by preventing them from bringing their service dog on last-minute trips. But airlines could still require forms attesting to an animal's good behavior and health, which could present challenges if the form has to be

completed by a specific institution, Rizzi said.

The proposal also says people with service animals must check in earlier than the general public, and would end the rarely seen use of miniature horses as service animals, although a Transportation Department official indicated the agency is open to reconsidering that provision.

Airlines could require that service animals be on a leash or harness and fit in its handler's foot space. They could limit passengers to two service animals each, although it is unclear how often that happens under the current rules. □

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# DC sues Trump inaugural committee, alleging abuse of funds

By **COLLEEN LONG** and **MICHAEL BALSAMO**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The District of Columbia is suing President Donald Trump's inaugural committee and two companies that control the Trump International Hotel in the nation's capital, accusing them of throwing parties for the Trump family with nonprofit funds, and overpaying for event space at the hotel.

The district's attorney general, Karl Racine, said the inaugural committee had been "blatantly and unlawfully abusing nonprofit funds to enrich the Trump family." The lawsuit, announced Wednesday, alleges that the committee abused nonprofit funds and coordinated with the Trump family to "grossly overpay for event space" in the hotel.

The committee has maintained that its finances were independently audited, and that all money was spent in accordance with the law.

It was the latest allegation that Trump and his family have used public and nonprofit funds spent at Trump-owned properties to enrich themselves — part of the peril of Trump not fully withdrawing from his businesses



In this March 11, 2019 file photo, the Trump International Hotel is seen in Washington.

Associated Press

while he is president. Trump has maintained ownership but turned the reins over to his adult sons, who have bristled at the charge that they are profiting off their father's presidency.

The suit alleges the committee coordinated with the hotel's management and members of Trump's family to arrange the events and that committee staffers knew they were paying prices that were "grossly above market rate" but

didn't consider less expensive alternatives.

The committee raised an unprecedented \$107 million to host events celebrating Trump's inauguration in January 2017. But the committee's spending has drawn mounting scrutiny.

"District law requires nonprofits to use their funds for their stated public purpose, not to benefit private individuals or companies," Racine said. "In this case, we are seeking to recover the

nonprofit funds that were improperly funneled directly to the Trump family business."

Prosecutors found that Rick Gates, a former Trump campaign aide who flipped on the president during the special counsel's Russia investigation, personally managed discussions with the hotel about using the space, including ballrooms and meeting rooms. One of the event's planners raised concerns

about pricing with Trump, Gates and Ivanka Trump, according to the lawsuit. Ivanka Trump is the president's daughter and a senior White House adviser.

Those concerns included a written warning that the price proposal was at least twice the market rate. But Gates went through with it anyway, at a cost of \$1.03 million, the suit says.

In one instance, Gates contacted Ivanka Trump and told her that he was "a bit worried about the optics" of the committee paying such a high fee, Racine said.

Stephanie Winston Wolkoff, a former adviser to first lady Melania Trump who played a leading role organizing the inaugural parties, had also told Trump, when he was president-elect, and Ivanka Trump that she was uneasy with the offer, Racine said. Winston Wolkoff later followed up with an email to Gates and Ivanka Trump warning that the hotel's proposal was at least twice the market rate, Racine said.

Prosecutors say the committee could have hosted inaugural events at other venues either for free or for reduced costs but didn't consider those options. □



This Oct. 12, 2019, file photo shows damage of a partial collapse at the Hard Rock Hotel under construction in New Orleans.

Associated Press

**NEW ORLEANS (AP)** — A new tarp was hung at a building collapse site in New Orleans on Wednesday to hide the partially exposed remains of a worker who was killed there in October.

The body had been ex-

posed after wind blew away another tarp. Pictures of the remains began circulating on social media Tuesday.

City officials had said safety concerns might keep the tarp from being replaced at the unstable partially

## New tarp covers exposed remains at New Orleans collapse site

collapsed building near the French Quarter. But fire chief Tim McConnell said firefighters were able to replace the tarp Wednesday afternoon, braving windy weather at the unstable site.

"It has proven to be a challenge as we said it would," McConnell said.

The body is one of two that officials have been unable to retrieve since the partial collapse of the structure — a hotel that was under construction. McConnell said wreckage has continued to shift at the site.

"They had to drop lines from four and five floors above," said Collin Arnold, the city's emergency director.

City officials, after learning of the exposed body, began asking residents not to take or distribute photos of the remains, out of respect for the family. Arnold said Facebook and Twitter had some of the posts removed after talking with city officials.

The latest photos of the building show a yellow tarp covering the area, several stories above street level, where the victim had been visible. A red tarp that once obscured the body dangled from wreckage nearby.

The Oct. 12 accident killed three people and injuring dozens more. The bodies of two workers, 63-year-

old Jose Ponce Arreola and 36-year-old Quinnyon Wimberly, cannot be recovered safely ahead of a controlled implosion of the site planned for mid-to-late March.

"Capturing or sharing images of the victims in such a condition is irresponsible, it is indefensible, and it is not who we are as New Orleanians," city spokeswoman LaTonya Norton said. "Out of respect to the victims and their families, and in the name of basic common decency: we urge news outlets, residents, and social media users to have nothing to do with making a tragic situation needlessly worse." □

# Court takes another look at Native American adoption law

By KEVIN MCGILL

**NEW ORLEANS (AP)** — Federal appellate judges closely questioned attorneys for the government and Native American tribes Wednesday over whether a law meant to preserve Native American families and culture unconstitutionally intrudes into state adoption issues.

It was the second time in a year that the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals was considering the future of the 1978 Indian Child Welfare Act. A three-judge panel of the appellate court upheld the act in August in a 2-1 ruling.

Opponents of the law — including non-native families who have tried to adopt American Indian children — sought and got a full court re-hearing. Sixteen judges heard the latest arguments.

Aside from strictly legal issues, the case sparks strong emotions. Matthew McGill, representing families challenging the law, told the court that one set of would-be adoptive parents had a child "pried out of their arms because she was not an Indian."

Outside the courthouse, Rosa Soto Alvarez, of Tucson, Arizona, held onto the flag of the Pascua Yaqui tribe. She said the ICWA

helped her and her three siblings get adopted by a Native American family after her mother's suicide when she was 11.

"Because I grew up in a Yaqui home, and knowing our culture and tradition, I was elected to be in tribal leadership," said Alvarez, a member of the tribal council.

The legal arguments focused on questions of race, tribal sovereignty and constitutional limits on the federal government.

U.S. Interior Department Attorney Eric Grant said Congress passed the law after finding that adoption standards at the state level were resulting in the break-up of American Indian families. Paul Spruhan, arguing for the Navajo Nation, said the ICWA "fulfills the federal government's treaty obligations with tribal nations." Both were closely questioned by various judges about how an act of Congress can overcome state laws regarding domestic matters, especially those that touch on the lives of non-Native Americans, such as the plaintiffs.

Grant cited the Constitution's "supremacy clause," which gives certain federal laws priority over state laws. Several judges were unconvinced that the clause

applied, one telling Grant, "You're dis-empowering states from conducting their own domestic affairs, in terms of adoption, child custody and regulation of family affairs."

The earlier court opinion by Judge James Dennis upheld the law's supporters who said the U.S. Supreme Court has long recognized that Congress has broad power to regulate Native American tribes. That opinion said the act's definition of Indian child is not based solely on race because "under some tribal membership laws, eligibility extends to children without Indian blood, such as the descendants of former slaves of



Rosa Soto Alvarez, of Tucson, holds a flag of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe as she and other Native Americans stand outside the federal appeals court in New Orleans, Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2020.

Associated Press

tribes who became members after they were freed, or the descendants of adopted white persons."

It was unclear when the full court would issue an opinion.

Three states — Louisiana,

Indiana and Texas — are also plaintiffs in the case challenging the law. Twenty-six states and the District of Columbia have filed a brief supporting the law, although they do not have a direct role in the case. □

## City suspends Miami police captain who claimed to be black

By ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON  
Associated Press

**MIAMI (AP)** — The city of Miami on Wednesday suspended a Hispanic police captain who was strongly condemned after he publicly claimed he was black when fighting accusations that he has derided black people.

The Miami Dade Branch of the NAACP had called for Police Capt. Javier Ortiz's resignation earlier this week, saying it was deeply concerned by the com-

ments Ortiz made at a city commission meeting last week. On Wednesday, Miami police spokesman Michael Vega said Ortiz had been relieved of duty pending an investigation. Vega did not specify the time frame or the basis of the investigation.

At the Friday meeting, members of Miami's black police association voiced complaints about discrimination within the department, mentioning the captain by name. □

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# Top judge elected as Greece's first female president

By ELENA BECATOROS  
Associated Press  
ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Greece's lawmakers elected their country's first female president Wednesday, with an overwhelming majority voting in favor of high court judge Katerina Sakellariopoulou.

Speaking after being formally informed of the parliament vote, Sakellariopoulou said she would aim for the "broadest possible consensus" in the course of carrying out her duties. In her first comments as president-elect, the judge noted the "difficult conditions and challenges of the 21st century, including the financial crisis, climate change, the mass movement of populations and the consequent humanitarian crisis, the erosion of the rule of law and all manner of inequalities and exclu-

sions." Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis nominated Sakellariopoulou as a non-partisan candidate who would enjoy broad support from across the political spectrum. All major parties voted in favor of the nomination, with Sakellariopoulou being elected to the largely ceremonial post in a 261-33 vote, well above the 200 votes required. Six lawmakers were absent. Greece has a historically low number of women in senior positions in politics, and Mitsotakis had been criticized for selecting a nearly all-male Cabinet after he won general elections in July 2019. In the current Greek Cabinet, all but one of the 18 senior positions are held by men. Speaking after the vote, Mitsotakis described Sakel-



Katerina Sakellariopoulou, head of the Council of State poses at her office in Athens on Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2020.

Associated Press

ariopoulou, 63, as a "great jurist, a great judiciary personality who unites all Greeks from the minute this procedure began." He said he sought to nominate a candidate who would "symbolize the youth of the Greek nation, and I am glad that the result confirmed that on the big issues, we can finally agree." European officials congratulated Sakellariopoulou, with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen welcoming the election of Greece's first female president in a tweet that

said the country was "moving ahead into a new era of equality." European Council head Charles Michel also tweeted congratulations, saying it was "a great signal to elect the Republic's first female head of state." Sakellariopoulou, who has headed the Council of State, the country's highest administrative court, since 2018, is to begin her five-year term in March, when the term of the current president, veteran conservative politician Prokopis Pavlopoulos, expires. □



A member holds a document inside the House of Lords as the European Withdrawal Agreement Bill is debated in London, Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2020.

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — British lawmakers have overturned changes to the government's flagship Brexit bill made by Parliament's House of Lords, removing a promise to reunite child refugees with their families in the U.K. As the bill went through its final stages before becoming law, the House of Commons on Wednesday removed five amendments inserted into the Withdrawal Agreement Bill by the unelected upper chamber. Britain is scheduled to

leave the European Union on Jan. 31. The Lords voted Tuesday to demand that post-Brexit Britain continues to let unaccompanied migrant children in EU countries join relatives living in the U.K. The promise was made in 2018 by former British Prime Minister Theresa May, but it was removed from the Brexit legislation after Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Conservatives won a big parliamentary majority in an election last month. Johnson's government says

## UK lawmakers remove child-migrants promise from Brexit bill

it intends to continue resettling child migrants in Britain after the country leaves the EU but argues that the issue does not belong in the EU withdrawal bill, which sets out the terms of Britain's departure from the 28-nation bloc. Brexit Secretary Stephen Barclay said an agreement on taking in the children "is ultimately a matter which must be negotiated with the EU, and the government is committed to seeking the best possible outcome in those negotiations." But Labour lawmaker Yvette Cooper accused Johnson's Conservative government of planning to "betray the commitments that have been made to the most vulnerable children of all." The House of Commons

also stripped out changes made by the Lords to bolster the rights of EU citizens in Britain, protect the powers of U.K. courts and ensure a say for Scotland and Wales in post-Brexit legal changes. The wrangling won't stop the Brexit bill from becoming law within days, because the House of Commons can override the unelected Lords. Members of the Lords acknowledged Wednesday that they would have to give way. "We are at the end of a very long road," said Martin Callanan, a Brexit minister in the Lords. The EU parliament also must approve the Brexit divorce deal before Jan. 31. A vote by the European Parliament is expected next week. □

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## Guaidó seeks EU sanctions for Venezuela, meeting with Trump

By ARITZ PARRA

**BRUSSELS (AP)** — Venezuela's opposition leader said Wednesday that he wants the European Union to broaden sanctions against members of the Venezuelan government as a way to push toward free presidential elections in the country.

Speaking in Brussels during a global tour that defied a year-long travel ban at home and sought allies' support to oust Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro, Juan Guaidó also told The Associated Press that he is seeking a meeting with President Donald Trump in Washington.

"We are making all efforts to align as many agendas as possible," he said in an interview. "We don't rule it out. We are looking for a space."

Guaidó just missed an opportunity to meet the U.S. president in Europe. Trump was at the economic forum in the Swiss mountain resort of Davos on Tuesday and Wednesday, where the Venezuelan politician has a scheduled appearance on Thursday before he continues what he called an "intense agenda" that could also take him to France and Spain.

A year ago, Trump's administration rushed to throw its support behind Guaidó, the speaker of the opposition-controlled National Assembly, recognizing him as the country's legitimate president.

About 60 nations have also backed him, contending that Maduro's 2018 reelection was invalid and marred by fraud. Guaidó, however, has been unable

to remove the Venezuelan president from power. Maduro controls key government institutions, the Supreme Court, the electoral board and the military.

Despite the setbacks, including a failed call for a military uprising last April, the Venezuelan opposition has continued to increase pressure on Maduro. This week, Guaidó's team is pushing hard to secure appearances with foreign heads of government, like he did on Tuesday with British Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

Spain's new, left-wing government has said that Guaidó is welcome to visit the country, which hosts a large community of Venezuelans, but that he would be received by the foreign minister, not Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez.

That has been read as the influence that the anti-austerity Podemos party wields in Sánchez's new coalition cabinet. Podemos' founder Pablo Iglesias, now a deputy prime minister, once criticized the Spanish government for backing Guaidó, saying that the Venezuelan opposition leader sought a coup d'etat with U.S. intervention and a "blood bath" in the Latin American country.

Asked about the influence of Podemos in a country key in shaping the EU's Venezuelan policy, Guaidó said he trusted Sánchez's "determination and love for the values of freedom, democracy and the support that Venezuela and the region need."

"This is not a problem of right or left. In Venezuela, the problem is about the



Leader of Venezuela's political opposition Juan Guaidó talks to journalists during a joint press conference with European Parliament members at the European Parliament in Brussels, Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2020.

Associated Press

dictatorship and the citizens who keep fighting for their democracy and their dignity," Guaidó said. "It's important not to see this with an ideological bias, but to understand clearly our demand for free elections."

The 36-year-old opposition leader also wants Europe to ban the trading of Venezuelan gold mined from the country's southern jungles, what he calls "blood gold" responsible for damages in the environment and local communities. The metal has increasingly become a source of revenue there.

And after the EU pledged last year to stiffen the bloc's sanctions against Venezuelan individuals if the now defunct talks hosted by Norway to reach a negotiated solution to the country's 7-year-long crisis failed,

Guaidó said the moment had arrived.

"Dictatorships and dictators need to know that there are sanctions, that there is a responsibility and that they can't laugh at the world," he said.

After his meeting with the EU's top diplomat, Josep Borrell, the European Foreign Affairs Office issued a statement saying that the bloc is committed "to support a genuine process toward a peaceful and democratic resolution of the crisis, based on credible and transparent presidential and legislative elections."

Guaidó also lamented the raid of his Caracas office on Tuesday night by Venezuela's powerful intelligence police unit, as well as the disappearance of Ismael León, a deputy in the National Assembly who the

opposition said was taken by security forces.

He said those "attacks" were "unmasking the true nature of the dictatorship" but that he was nevertheless committed to returning to Venezuela.

"Without any doubt, I'm going back," he answered when asked whether he feared reprisals or detention. "I am the interim president of Venezuela and we are going to work from Caracas, despite the risk that it carries." □



# Saudi crown prince's WhatsApp linked to Bezos phone hack

**DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)** —

The cellphone of Amazon founder and Washington Post owner Jeff Bezos was hacked in what appeared to be an attempt by Saudi Arabia's crown prince to "influence, if not silence" the newspaper's reporting on the kingdom, two U.N. human rights experts said Wednesday.

The U.N. experts called for an "immediate investigation" by the United States into a report commissioned by Bezos that showed the billionaire technology mogul's phone was likely hacked after he received an MP4 video file sent from Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's WhatsApp account after the two men exchanged phone numbers during a dinner in Los Angeles in 2018.

The video file was sent to Bezos' phone five months before Saudi critic and Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi was killed by Saudi government agents inside the Saudi consulate in Turkey in October. At the time, the crown prince was being widely hailed for ushering in major social reforms to the kingdom, but Khashoggi was writing columns in the Post that highlighted the darker side of Prince Mohammed's simultaneous clampdown on dissent.

The Post was harshly critical of the Saudi government after Khashoggi's killing and demanded accountability in a highly public campaign that ran in the paper for weeks after his death.

"The information we have received suggests the possible involvement of the Crown Prince in surveillance of Mr. Bezos, in an effort to influence, if not silence, The Washington Post's reporting on Saudi Arabia," the independent U.N. experts said.

At a time when Saudi Arabia was "supposedly investigating the killing of Mr. Khashoggi, and prosecuting those it deemed responsible, it was clandestinely waging a massive online campaign against Mr. Bezos and Amazon targeting him principally as the owner of The Washing-



**In this Oct. 14, 2019 file photo, Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman speaks to Russian President Vladimir Putin during the talks in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.**

**Associated Press**

ton Post," the experts said. Bezos first went public about the hack last year. He said the National Enquirer tabloid, whose owner has ties to the crown prince, was threatening to publish Bezos' private messages and photos if he didn't stop a private investigation he'd sought into the hacking of his phone.

lyad el-Baghdadi, an activist who worked with Bezos' investigators, told The Associated Press it appears the hacking was about free speech. "It's not about trying to compromise a businessman for business purposes," he said. "It's not about Amazon, it's about The Washington Post."

Saudi Arabia's foreign minister, Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, called the hacking allegations "absolutely illegitimate."

"There was no information in there that's relevant. There was no substantiation, there was no evidence," he told an AP reporter at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. "It was purely conjecture, and if there is real evidence, we look forward to seeing it."

The independent experts, Agnes Callamard, special rapporteur on summary executions and extrajudicial killings, and David Kaye, special rapporteur on freedom of expression, were appointed by the U.N. Human Rights Council. They

published their statement after reviewing the report conducted by FTI Consulting, which was hired by Bezos' security adviser to manage the investigation. The report was published in full exclusively by VICE's Motherboard later on Wednesday.

The digital forensic investigation assessed with "medium to high confidence" that Bezos' phone was infiltrated on May 1, 2018, via the video file sent from the crown prince's WhatsApp account.

The U.N. experts said that records showed that within hours of receiving the video from Prince Mohammed's account, there was "an anomalous and extreme change in phone behavior" with enormous amounts of data being transmitted and exfiltrated from the phone, undetected, over months.

The report stated that Bezos' phone was compromised "possibly via tools procured by Saud al-Qahtani," the former adviser to the crown prince who was sanctioned by the U.S. for his suspected role in orchestrating the operation that killed Khashoggi.

Saudi Arabia's justice system found al-Qahtani not guilty of any wrongdoing in the killing. A judge sentenced five people to death and sentenced three others to a combined

24 years in prison in December for Khashoggi's slaying. Al-Qahtani was also head of Saudi Arabia's cybersecurity federation and allegedly behind campaigns that created artificially-trending tweets to attack the prince's perceived enemies, rally support around the leadership and stymie criticism on social media.

The full investigative report, reviewed by The Associated Press, found that due to end-to-end encryption, it was virtually impossible to decrypt the contents of the downloader to determine if it did indeed have any malicious code.

Saudi Arabia has already been accused of spying in America in a case involving Twitter. U.S. prosecutors in California allege that the Saudi government, frustrated by growing criticism of its leaders and policies on social media, recruited two Twitter employees to gather confidential personal information on thousands of accounts that included prominent opponents.

Adam S. Hickey, deputy assistant attorney general of the U.S. Department of Justice's National Security Division, would not confirm or deny a U.S. investigation of the latest allegations was underway, but said "we investigate nation state-sponsored hacking all the time."

Separately, a Trump ad-

ministration official, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss internal matters, said presidential adviser Jared Kushner has communicated with the Saudi crown prince on WhatsApp.

Bezos visited Saudi Arabia in 2016 to meet with Prince Mohammed before the two men met again during the prince's tour of the United States in 2018.

The billionaire had been looking for a site in the Middle East to expand Amazon's cloud services. The company ultimately selected the island nation of Bahrain off the coast of Saudi Arabia.

During that time, Amazon had already expanded into the Middle East with its 2017 purchase of e-commerce website Souq.com, which is a competitor of Noon.com, a platform launched that same year and is heavily funded by Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund, which is overseen by the crown prince.

Bezos went public last February after allegedly being shaken down by the National Enquirer, which he said threatened to expose a "below-the-belt" selfie he'd taken and other private messages and pictures he'd exchanged with a woman he was dating while he was still married.

Bezos wrote in a lengthy piece for the Medium that rather than capitulate to extortion and blackmail, "I've decided to publish exactly what they sent me, despite the personal cost and embarrassment they threaten. While he did not accuse Saudi Arabia's crown prince of being behind the hacking of his phone, he noted that the owner of the National Enquirer had been investigated for various actions taken on behalf of the Saudi government.

Bezos' chief investigator, Gavin De Becker, went further, saying in a published report last March that the investigation "concluded with high confidence that the Saudis had access to Bezos' phone, and gained private information." □



In this March 5, 2015 photo, Isabel dos Santos, reputedly Africa's richest woman, attends the opening of an art exhibition featuring works from the collection of her husband and art collector Sindika Dokolo in Porto, Portugal.

Associated Press

## 'Africa's richest woman' now a formal suspect in graft probe

**JOHANNESBURG (AP)** — Africa's reputed richest woman is a formal suspect in an investigation into mismanagement and the siphoning off of funds during her time with Angola's state-run oil company, the country's attorney general announced Wednesday. The remarks by Helder Pita Gros to reporters in the capital, Luanda, come days after a global investigation accused the billionaire Isabel dos Santos of murky dealings in the oil and diamond-rich southern African nation whose people remain some of the poorest on Earth. Wednesday's announcement is the latest sign that Angola's government under President Joao Lourenco is determined to pursue accountability after the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists accused dos Santos of using "unscrupulous deals" to build her fortune, estimated at \$2 billion. Dos Santos, daughter of Angola's former president, has denied any wrongdoing. Already Angolan authorities this week have said they are reaching out to other countries for help in tackling the corruption that critics say has robbed millions of citizens of basic needs like quality health care. And businesses are cutting ties. Portuguese bank Euro-

Bic this week said it will stop doing business with companies and people linked to dos Santos, its main shareholder. In a new statement Wednesday, the bank said dos Santos had decided to sell her stake in the institution. The allegations in the investigation were based on more than 715,000 confidential financial and business records provided by the Platform to Protect Whistleblowers in Africa, an advocacy group based in Paris, as well as hundreds of interviews. The cache of documents is known as Luanda Leaks. Jose Eduardo dos Santos, Isabel's father, ruled Angola for 38 years until 2017. Human rights groups have long accused him of stealing vast amounts of state money during his rule. Before stepping down, he appointed his daughter head of the state oil company, Sonangol. Last December, a Luanda court froze Isabel dos Santos' major assets, which include banks and a telecom company. The government says it is trying to recover \$1.1 billion it says the country is owed by dos Santos, her husband and a close associate of the couple. Dos Santos has said the legal action against her is a "witch hunt" launched by officials who replaced her father. □



Indian Union Muslim League leader P.K.Kunhalikutty, center, one of the petitioners, speaks to media on the lawns of India's Supreme Court after the top court started hearing dozens of petitions that seek revocation of a new citizenship law amendment in New Delhi, India, Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2020.

Associated Press

## Battle for India's new citizenship law moves to top court

**NEW DELHI (AP)** — India's top court on Wednesday began hearing dozens of petitions seeking the revocation of amendments to the citizenship law following nationwide protests and a security crackdown that led to more than 20 deaths. The Supreme Court would not grant a stay before hearing from the government, which has argued the law is a humanitarian gesture allowing citizenship for people fleeing religious persecution in Muslim-majority Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan. Chief Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde, the head of a three-judge panel, told the courtroom he will make a decision in four weeks after the government has replied to all of the petitions. He also asked a larger, five-judge constitutional panel to take part in the decision. The law Parliament approved in December sparked vehement opposition. Protesters, political opponents and constitutional lawyers have said it is discriminatory because it excludes Muslims. The nationwide protests numbering in the tens of

thousands appear to be the fiercest public criticism Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist-led government has faced. Modi's party has downplayed the protests as orchestrated by political opponents. His powerful Home Minister Amit Shah said the government will not retreat on the law. "Those who want to protest may continue doing so," Shah said Tuesday at a public rally in Lucknow. Most of the petitions argue that by excluding Muslims, the law undermines the first sentence of the preamble to the Indian Constitution, which defines the country as secular, and violates Article 14, which guarantees equality before the law. "We believe the court will certainly take into consideration the views expressed by all these sections of people, and they will come to a conclusion that it is against the Constitution of India," said petitioner K.M. Kader Mohideen. Modi's government and proponents of the changes say Muslim immigrants still could attain citizenship through the existing naturalization process.

"Because it is a well-drafted legislation, with a specific purpose, for a specific group of people, there is really no problem on it passing the muster," said Aishwarya Bhati, a senior advocate at the Supreme Court who supports the government's move. Those who oppose the law believe the government will argue it is not based on an immigrant's religion, but on religious persecution in the three countries. "If you discriminate on the grounds of religion, that itself is prohibited in the constitution," said Colin Gonsalves, a senior advocate at the Supreme Court and founder of the Human Rights Law Network, which filed two of the petitions. Gonsalves, however, said it is unlikely judges will strike down or alter the law, echoing the fears of many Indians who oppose the measure and are questioning the court's independence. "The Supreme Court is no longer the beacon light of democracy in India," Gonsalves said. "Judges today are political, liaised, in a wrong way, that is, towards government." □

# Erasing Evo: Bolivian bid to remove his image draws backlash

By PAOLA FLORES  
Associated Press

**LA PAZ, Bolivia (AP)** — A man with a sledgehammer pounded at the bust of his country's former leader adorning a huge sports stadium that his government had built and named after the then long-reigning president. Ministers from the current government applauded as the head came down.

It was a scene reminiscent of some nations after the fall of the Soviet Union, but it was taking place in the Bolivian city of Cochabamba and the object of the battering was former President Evo Morales.

Morales fled Bolivia in November after losing the support of the military and police amid widespread protests over a disputed election. His supporters called it a coup. Opponents say he was forced from power after manipulating the constitution to run for a fourth term in office then seeking to win that vote with electoral fraud.

Across Bolivia, the government of interim President Jeanine Áñez is taking down statues, painting over murals, renaming soccer fields and stadiums, and trying to erase the legacy of Morales, who governed this Andean country



In this Jan. 13, 2020 photo, the destroyed bust of Bolivia's former President Evo Morales, lies on the ground after it was knocked down on the orders of Bolivia's sports minister, outside a sports center in Cochabamba, Bolivia.

for more than 14 years as its first indigenous president.

Áñez accuses Morales and his party of creating a "personality cult" around him, even building a museum dedicated to the then leader's life and presidency.

But while the toppling of the statues of former leaders has often been greeted by broad social consensus in other countries, it is facing backlash in Bolivia, where Morales still has supporters, especially among the indigenous. They say his removal is a bid to wrest

power from Bolivia's indigenous majority and return it to the traditional elite.

"I do not agree with the name change because in the end the name does not harm anyone," said Robin Higuera, expressing her opposition to removing "Evo Morales" from the name of the sports venue where she coaches young soccer players in La Paz's neighboring city of El Alto. María Teresa Zegada, a sociologist and political analyst, said this is the first time such a dismantling of a former leader's image has occurred in Bolivia, because "we had never had anything so structured" before. No president in Bolivia's history governed for as long as Morales did.

"The images of Morales weren't accidental. They were focused on sustaining the strongman regime promoted by his ruling party," Zegada said of the omnipresence of his image in Bolivia. "History has shown us at the world level that this happens with authoritarian governments, be they populism from the left or right. They end badly."

In Cochabamba, the bust at the entrance to the "Evo Morales" sports venue was destroyed last week. The venue's name will be changed to "Quillacollo," after its location.

Sports Minister Milton Navarro was among those

who helped topple the statue of Morales. Several people stepped on the fallen bust with their feet as it lay the ground.

"We want to go against the idolatry of Morales," said Navarro. "He was corrupt, a dictator. Sports fields cannot bear the name of someone like that."

Following a decree signed Monday by Bolivia's current president, the stadium is just one of many venues that will stop bearing the name of the former president. Navarro said they will no longer be used for political events or speeches.

Áñez argues that Morales used sports as a way to campaign continuously.

In 2007, Morales launched a program known as "Bolivia Changes, Evo Comes Through," which was initially financed by donations from then-Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez and later maintained with Bolivian state resources.

Morales, a soccer player and a fan, used the money to build soccer fields, sports centers, schools and hospitals. He even created youth soccer programs bearing his name. In his 2018 presidential report, Morales said that 1,763 sports field had been built in 10 years under the program.

Morales would often personally inaugurate the fields by playing soccer against local officials. In 2008, he

played with Argentine star Diego Maradona at the Hernando Siles stadium in La Paz.

Upon hearing what was happening at the Cochabamba stadium, Morales tweeted from his self-exile in Argentina: "When they destroy the bust with my image, they will be trying to make the popular indigenous movement disappear."

Bertha Quispe's poor neighborhood in El Alto has a soccer field with synthetic turf that was built under Morales. She doesn't like the government moving to erase his image.

"It doesn't make any sense," she said. "That's not its role."

Morales resigned the presidency when the police and army withdrew support after several weeks of demonstrations that erupted over allegations of fraud in the Oct. 20 election that Morales claimed to have won. The Organization of American States said its audit found serious irregularities in the vote count. An interim government took over and annulled the October election, scheduling new national elections for May.

With the same fire that his successor now tries to erase his name, Morales did everything to put his image and name into the most unexpected corners of Bolivian homes. Some salt packages still bear his image as well as products that mothers receive free in state handouts.

Navarro, the sports minister, said this is why Bolivia's interim president extended her campaign beyond sports stadiums. Morales' image has also been ordered removed from computers given to teachers and from youth soccer jerseys. Its use by high government officials for public works is also prohibited.

"The followers of Evo Morales have to worship him, tie the laces of his shoes, find him diversion in his free time, write songs and hymns for his rejoicing," said Áñez. "I am certain that with this decree we are go to stop this personality cult." □

# LOCAL



## Celebration Day of a National Hero



**ORANJESTAD** - The island of Aruba has a special day coming up this Saturday, January 25th. The island will have lots of festivities that honor the late pro-autonomy political leader Gilberto Francois (Betico) Croes. He helped the island attain the Status Aparte. Aruba was allowed to function as a commonwealth within the Dutch Kingdom and Betico is honored for this outcome since 1989 by celebrating the Dia di Betico. The official holiday features performances, sporting events and games throughout the island.

Croes himself was not able to enjoy the results of his ongoing struggle; he was involved in an accident on December 31, 1985, and got into a coma. He passed away on November 26, 1986. For the Aruban people, his words will never be forgotten. He told his people: "Si mi cai na caminda, gara e bandera y sigue cu e lucha" which means 'If I fall along the way, grab the flag and continue the struggle'.

### Active man

The father of the Aruban nation, as he is called often, was an active man in Caribbean organizations while he studied in the Netherlands. Betico was a social man, participated in sports and the social and cultural community. He worked as a teacher and instituted the official seal, flag and hymn for the island. During the Round table Conference of 1981, he was responsible for formally setting the date for Aruba's independency. Betico also became leader of the political party Movimiento Electoral di Pueblo (MEP), now the main party that forms the current government that was elected in September 2017. There were two stages in which the Independence was formed: the first one was set for 1986, the second was set for ten years



later and enhanced the independence from the Netherlands. However, it never came to a total independence of Aruba in 1996; it was dropped in 1990. The Status Aparte within the Kingdom of the Netherlands was to be a permanent one.

### Activities

#### Friday January 24

Concert symphony orchestra & local artists  
At Plaza di Betico you can enjoy a live concert of our symphony orchestra together with local artists to celebrate the day of our national hero. The concert will take place Friday night at 8pm and is free entrance.

#### Saturday January 25

Lighthouse special  
Come and climb to the top of our national monument to be amazed with the fantastic panorama. The Lighthouse will be open from 9am to 7pm.

### History Museum of Aruba

The History Museum of Aruba will open her gates on this special day between noon and 4pm. A guide is available to show you around and tell you everything about the building and history. There is a kids corner and the possibility to have some drinks and snacks.

### Live band Rincon Boyz

Celebrate and commemorate Betico Croes with a special performance by Rincon Boyz.



'Betico Day' is a national holiday to be spend with family and friends. Great way to learn and discover the rich culture and history of Aruba. Renaissance Marketplace will celebrate this day with a live performance by Rincon Boyz. Perfect family night out for dinner and entertainment. Between 8 and 10pm.

### Miniature boat races

Watch the handmade miniature boats go to water at Governor's Bay in Oranjestad. One of Aruba's oldest cultural traditions are still alive. Take the chance to talk to one of the boat builders and hear them out about this tradition. From 9.30am.

There are much more things to do this weekend to celebrate Betico Croes. Have a look at the specials of restaurants and casino's in the Aruba Today newspaper and plan your day. This weekend you are welcome to mingle with the locals and learn the culture of the people. □





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## Aruban Education Under Attack?



tendance, access to drinking water and electricity, literacy rate, access to teachers and so on. However, when it comes to indicators conditional on innovation and digitalization, Aruba still has room to learn and grow. The “Plan Educacional National” (PEN) rapport highlights the importance of aligning the already behind education system to the “Future of Work” mindset. With the loss of certain jobs and skills, newer and improved ones emerge and that is where we should work on. According to the PEN (2019) “skills that are considered important are creativity and imagination, technological knowledge, 21st century skills, coding, entrepreneurial mindset and persistence”. The SDGs are well represented by these ideals, considering the impact of education on inclusive innovation, creativity, technological change, and socio-economic development.

### Education and Employment

In April 2019, The Minister of Finance, Economy & Culture presented the Economic Policy for 2019-2021. In this report the Minister introduced the six economic pillars for the purpose of diversifying Aruba's economy. These six pillars consist out of the: tourism industry; knowledge economy; agriculture; logistics; circular economy; and creative industries. In the words by Laozi “give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach a man to fish and he will eat for a lifetime”. The essence in this saying is that education is necessary for sustainability to occur.

**ORANJESTAD —** When I think about education, I can't help but reflect on my childhood. Bearing all the excitement on the first school day and the anticipation of finding out who my teacher was going to be. Walking into the beautifully decorated classroom filled with quotes like; “Education is the passport for the future” or “Better to have tried and failed than to have never tried at all” seem like the perfect setting for success. However, now that we are in the 21st century, how much have we evolved? Are we teaching our students the right skills? Are we providing good quality education? Is the Aruban education system inclusive for all students?

From the title of today's column, we can pinpoint that “The Goal of the Month” for January is Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4 which represents good quality education. This month the entire island was disappointed to learn that an elementary school was vandalized, resulting in major loss for the school due to a fire outburst. Interestingly, it was exactly the school that was chosen by the Aruban Government as an innovative pilot school. This school received brand new digital boards to increase the level of education within the classroom. However, merely at the beginning of 2020, it seems as if the Aruban education system is under attack.

Data shows that Aruba like many other island states have made tremendous advancements towards proving good education, but is still struggling to catch up with global demands and trends. Why do you think this is the case? It was not too long ago that teachers united to demand the government to pay more attention to basic needs such as air conditioning, infrastructure, school materials, school security, and safety. Besides all these obstacles, education remains a public good and is a vital component for sustainable human and economic development of a country.

### Aruban Education and the SDGs

Since the emergence of the Sustainable Development Goals in 2015, a baseline measurement of all the 17 goals was conducted in 2018 by the Aruba SDG indicator working group together with the support from United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). Specifically, with regards to education, the report summarizes that Aruba scores well above average on indicators such as; student participation, female at-

Continued on Page 15

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Continued from Page 14

Especially when we are talking about developing new economies, providing education in these 6 sectors will help build the human capital needed to do so. Plato even expressed that “if a man neglects education, he walks lame to the end of his life”, indicating that if governments and organizations deny the power of education they are limiting themselves beyond years. In the age of globalization, Aruba cannot fall in this trap. Using India as a case study example, Kobzev Kotaskova et. al (2018) explain that an “increase of employment and focus on structuralizing of the economy are key tools how to increase the level and quality of education. Encouraging and

expanding opportunity for career training are crucial too”.

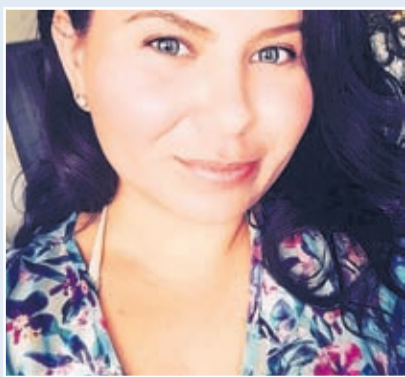
### Moving Forward

Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, the role and contribution of culture to sustainable development has been more elaborative in national and local cultural policies, especially considering culture’s contribution to economic development, social inclusion and education. Effective evidence-based policy making and strategic planning remain important aspects for the island. Both top-down and bottom-up the dialogue needs to create opportunity for more communication and collaboration. Decisions we make today in the education system will have long lasting effects for the future. Aruba can-

not afford another decade or two to catch up. The right priorities and the initiative needs to be aligned in order to solidify the foundation we are working on. Inter-ministry, inter-organizational, inter-departmental dynamics should be addressed and encouraged. The SDGs as simple as they may seem are not fragmented but are designed to work effectively in cluster networks. It resembles the policy process which includes all relevant actors and stakeholders. Having nicely written reports does not cover the issues at stake, but good implementation and monitoring plans should be taken seriously.

Even though education is the most important tool, it has the longest or least eye catching “return on in-

vestment”, thus making it the least popular choice for politicians. Overall, our focus should not be on merely making vision boards for the future but by strategically solving our educational issues. The next generations will need it more than we can imagine. As an island state, Aruba must start prioritizing the unpopular yet necessary elements to secure sustainable socio-economic development. The first steps have already been made, but it will now require some commitment and following through. Aruba has shown her support after the terrible fire at Cacique Macuarima Elementary School through many donations and aid. Aruba’s education system might be under attack, but now it is our turn to fight back! □



**Biography** - Thaïs G. Franken (24) is a recently graduated Aruban student at the University of Maastricht (UM). She obtained her graduate double master of science degree in Public Policy and Human Development in collaboration with the United Nations University Maastricht Economic and Social Research Institute on Innovation and Technology (UNU-MERIT). Back home, on the beautiful island of Aruba, she completed her Bachelor of Arts in Organization, Governance & Management (OGM) at the University of Aruba (UA), where she successfully defended her thesis titled “Placing Culture and Creativity at the Heart of the Aruban Sustainable Development”. It was precisely this research project that inspired the emergence of the “Creative Islander” column in 2018. Thaïs is very passionate about topics such as sustainability, innovation, culture, creativity, social entrepreneurship and their role in public management. Next to her academic interests, she enjoys reading, writing, dancing and cooking.

## Aruba National Park review of 2019: Conservation of Aruba's Nature is responsibility of all of us



ORANJESTAD – Fundacion Parke Nacional Aruba (FPNA) is looking back at a year where there were many advancements made in regards to conservation of Aruba's Nature. With the establishment of the Marine Park, and soon to be added 16+ nature areas in 2020, the conservation work to be done will be complex and will bring its challenges that FPNA will focus on during the new year.

### Service Level Agreement

Last August, FPNA entered into an agreement with the Government of Aruba, signing a Service Level Agreement (SLA). The purpose of the SLA is to reach a consensus on the tasks and efforts that FPNA is responsible for in order to reach its statutory goals. Additionally, the SLA implies that FPNA will take full responsibility with the task of conservation and protection of nature areas of management assigned to the foundation including scientific research on biodiversity which goes hand in hand with conservation education to the community at large.

### Purchase of Private Land at Boca Prins

Another positive step for FPNA this year was the purchase of a private land at Boca Prins that was effectuated last September. With such a positive result, FPNA will continue its efforts and look at the possibilities to acquire other private lands within the borders of Arikok National Park to guarantee the conservation and management of this nature reserve.

### Nature and Environment Education

During the month of December the pilot project for Nature and Environment Education (NEE) was realized. The pilot project will be implemented as part of the National curriculum for primary schools with pilot schools St. Jan Kleuterschool, Colegio Laura Wernet- Paskel, Cacique Macuarima and Scol Primario Cacique Aterima. The pilot project covers three themes: Waste, Healthy Lifestyle and Flora & Fauna. Visit our website to read more details on the pilot project.

### Junior Rangers

This year again two very successful junior ranger camps were organized for Aruba's youth of 9-12 years old. Four of FPNA's junior rangers were so lucky as to attend an informative nature exchange on Bonaire in October, courtesy of the organizer the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA). They had the opportunity to engage and discuss different environmental topics with the youth of four other islands and were inspired to make a difference when back home.

### Botanical Garden

In 2019 FPNA agreed to start developing a botanical garden from the already existing collections at Hofi Shon Shoco and Cunucu Arikok. The future botanical garden will hold and display documented collections of locally relevant living plants for the purposes of scientific research and conservation, and for the education, inspiration and wellbeing of the community at large.

### Shoco Conservation

In November – for the third year in a row – the team of Shoco (Aruba burrowing owl) volunteers was further trained in Shoco conservation. Experts from the USA joined in and played a supportive role, while budding scientists from Venezuela also came to learn from our successful joint-project with the Aruba Birdlife Conservation. Numerous artificial burrows were installed all over the island, including at golf courses and the marine barracks, some of which welcomed their first baby owls this year.



FPNA would like to extend its gratitude to all employees, volunteers and community of Aruba for their support during this past year and extends its message to everyone that conservation of Aruba's nature is the responsibility of all of us. FPNA will have revised operating hours this holiday season. Everyone who would like to visit the national park is subject to a conservation fee of Afl. 5.00 for adults or Afl. 28 for a year pass, kids under 18 years are free of charge. We would like to wish everyone Happy holidays and a prosperous 2020! □

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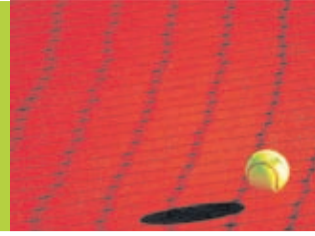
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# SPORTS



Tiger Woods watches his tee shot on the fifth hole during the pro-am round of the Farmer's Insurance golf tournament on the South Course at Torrey Pines Golf Course on Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2020, in San Diego.

Associated Press

## Expectations getting higher as Woods gets older

By DOUG FERGUSON  
AP Golf Writer

**SAN DIEGO (AP)** — The expectations seem to get higher even as Tiger Woods gets older.

Isn't it supposed to be the other way around?

Of course, it doesn't quell expectations when Woods is the Masters champion. Just the image of that red shirt under a green jacket was enough to believe he could win at least three more majors to catch Jack Nicklaus.

And then there's Japan. That's where Woods returned from a two-month break following maintenance surgery on his left knee and went wire-to-wire in the Zozo Championship.

It was his 82nd victory on the PGA Tour, tying the record that Sam Snead had to himself for the previous 69 years.

Continued on Page 20



# FOURTH-COMING

## Clippers beat Mavs For 4th straight win

Los Angeles Clippers forward Kawhi Leonard (2) dunks the ball over Dallas Mavericks forward Luka Doncic (77) in during the first half of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2020 in Dallas.

Associated Press  
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# Coco Gauff sets up Osaka showdown in Australia; Serena wins

By **HOWARD FENDRICH**  
AP Tennis Writer

**MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)**

— Plenty was going badly for Coco Gauff in the second round of the Australian Open.

The double-faults kept coming Wednesday, nine in all. The deficits, too: First, she dropped the opening set against 74th-ranked Sorana Cirstea. Then, after forcing a third, Gauff fell behind by a break, ceding 14 of 16 points with a series of mistakes. Later, after getting even at 3-all, Gauff was a mere two points from a loss.

None of that mattered. As she keeps showing, over and over, Gauff is not a typical 15-year-old. Not a typical tennis player, either. And by getting past Cirstea 4-6, 6-3, 7-5 in a little more than two hours thanks to a more aggressive approach in the late going, she now has set up yet another Grand Slam showdown against Naomi Osaka.

"I kind of felt the momentum changing," Gauff said about turning things around against Cirstea. "I knew I had to keep pressing."

Less than five months after their memorable meeting at the U.S. Open -- Osaka won that one in straight sets, then consoled a crying Gauff on court and encouraged her to address the spectators -- the two will face each other again. Like that time, Osaka is the major's reigning champion and Gauff is making her debut at the tournament.

"I think I'll be less nervous this time," said Gauff, who eliminated seven-time Grand Slam champion Venus Williams in the first round Monday. "I think I'm more confident this time around."

As for what sticks with her about the post-match comforting Osaka offered



**Serena Williams of the U.S. makes a forehand return to Slovenia's Tamara Zidansek during their second round singles match at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2020.**

**Associated Press**

in New York, Gauff said: "If I had a child or something, that's something I would want my child to see. It just shows what being a competitor really is. You might hate the person on the court, but off the court you love them — not really, like, 'hate,' but you want to win. Sometimes when we're on the court, we say things we don't mean because we have that mentality. When it's all said and done, we still look at each other with respect."

Other winners on Day 3 included Serena Williams — 6-2, 6-3 against Tamara Zidansek in a match that finished with the Rod Laver Arena retractable roof closed because of rain — No. 1 Ash Barty, 2018 Australian Open champion Caroline Wozniacki and two-time major champion

Petra Kvitova, the runner-up to Osaka in Australia a year ago.

Defending men's champion Novak Djokovic required all of 95 minutes to breeze past Japanese wild-card entry Tatsuma Ito 6-1, 6-4, 6-2, while Roger Federer had a similarly easy time, beating 41st-ranked Filip Krajinovic of Serbia 6-1, 6-4, 6-1.

While Federer had the usual Grand Slam day off between matches, Krajinovic's first-round contest was postponed by showers and so he didn't have the proper rest after a five-set win Tuesday.

"I do feel a little bit sorry," said Federer, who now meets Australia's John Millman, who surprised him in the fourth round of the 2018 U.S. Open.

Gauff was not at her very

best on a windy afternoon against Cirstea but managed to figure her way out of trouble repeatedly. Gauff demonstrated plenty of grit, yes, and also enthusiasm, pumping herself up by shaking a fist and yelling, "Come on!" after most of her successful points down the stretch.

All the while, Gauff was supported by a Melbourne Arena crowd that chanted, "Let's go, Coco! Let's go!" Her father, Corey, was animated in the stands, too, except when he was squeezing his eyes shut at critical moments.

There were several of those for his precocious daughter, who was ranked only 313th last year when she became the youngest player in history to qualify for Wimbledon, then wound up beating Williams there en route to the fourth round.

It is a measure of her came-soon stardom that Gauff was playing at Melbourne Park's third-largest stadium Wednesday, even though this was a matchup between a pair of players ranked outside the top 60

and with one career Grand Slam quarterfinal between them, more than a decade ago (Cirstea made it that far at the 2009 French Open).

Indeed, every Grand Slam singles match -- "every" being a relative term, of course, because this was No. 9 -- of the 67th-ranked Gauff's nascent career has been placed on a show court.

This was the first main draw match at a major for Gauff in which she held a better ranking than her opponent. Didn't seem that way at the outset: Gauff dropped the first set. After forcing things to a third, she trailed 3-0. After making it 3-3, Gauff needed to get through one more gut-check: Twice, she was two points from departing.

But the American teenager broke in the next-to-last game, then held to win.

How did Gauff get through this test?

"Just my will to win," she said. "My parents, they always told me I can come back, no matter what the score is."

Osaka worked through some frustrations Wednesday by grabbing her racket with both hands and chucking it to the ground, tossing away a tennis ball and kicking the racket along the court, to boot.

Then she plopped herself down on her sideline seat and draped a towel over her head. Soon, she was gathering herself and defeating Zheng Saisai 6-2, 6-4.

"I mean, my racket just magically flew out of my hand. I couldn't control it," Osaka said with a mischievous smile. "I think that's how I dealt with my frustration. It was a bit childish. I just want to play one match without throwing my racket or kicking it. That's all I want."

Perhaps because her news conference took place while Gauff and Cirstea were still playing, Osaka deflected a question seeking some sort of lookahead to the third round, saying simply she would go watch the end of that match. □



# Leonard scores 36 to lead Clips past Mavs 110-107

By **DAVE JACKSON**  
Associated Press

**DALLAS (AP)** — The Dallas Mavericks brought back one big man but lost another Tuesday night, and in the end, they couldn't rein in the reigning Finals MVP. Kawhi Leonard scored 36 points, Landry Shamet hit two clutch 3-pointers late and the Los Angeles Clippers beat the Dallas Mavericks 110-107 Tuesday night for their fourth straight win. Dallas ended a four-game winning streak, and more importantly, lost a key piece in center Dwight Powell just as they welcomed back Kristaps Porzingis.

Powell went down to a non-contact, right Achilles tendon injury in the first quarter, and though he will have an MRI on Wednesday, the team is fearing a worst-case scenario.

"Guys like him define the culture we want here," Dallas coach Rick Carlisle said. "It doesn't get much tougher than this, if it ends up being what we fear it might." Luka Doncic had 36 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists for Dallas. He scored 24 points in the second half to help rally the Mavericks after they trailed by double digits from late in the second quarter through most of the third.

Shamet helped the Clippers seize the game late in the fourth quarter. His 3 from the left wing to give Los Angeles a 100-98 lead with 2:48 to play. Montrezl Harrell added two free throws, then Shamet sank another 3 from straight-on to put the Clippers up by seven. He finished with 18 points.

"We just kind of found a way to win," Shamet said. "We'd loved to keep that lead the whole game, but that's not how it's going to be. It's a long season. We got to find different ways how to win like we did tonight."

Leonard added 11 in the fourth quarter, including his only 3 of the game with 1:15 left, which put the Clippers up 108-100.

But Dallas rallied, as Doncic hit a 3 and Maxi Kleber a dunk. After a Clippers turnover, Tim Hardaway Jr.'s potential tying 3 spun around and out. JaMychal Green missed two free throws for LA, but then Doncic missed two — the second intentionally — and Leonard sealed it with two free throws.

**POWELL'S INJURY**

Powell went down when he started to drive toward the basket but his right leg gave out. He fell to the ground and immediately slapped the floor in pain. He was helped to the locker room putting no weight on his right leg. Powell's teammate J.J.

Barea — who tore his right Achilles tendon last season — was distraught as Powell was taken off the court. Powell was averaging nearly 10 points a game in 39 games prior to the injury. With Porzingis out, Powell averaged 13 points over 10 games on 71% shooting. With Powell out, Dallas got 16 valuable minutes from former Clipper Boban Marjanovic, who had 12 points and seven rebounds. His turnaround hook with 6:23 to play tied it at 90, capping a rally from a 14-point, second-half deficit.

**KP RETURNS**

Porzingis scored 10 points on 4-for-17 shooting in his return after missing 10 games



Dallas Mavericks forward Dwight Powell (7) stumbles due to injury in the first half of an NBA basketball game against the Los Angeles Clippers Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2020 in Dallas.

Associated Press

with right knee soreness. He added nine rebounds, but after the game, he blamed himself for the Mavericks' loss. "If I played just a little bit better, we would have won the game," Porzingis said. "This loss is on me. That's how I feel. I know it's my first game back but I

have high expectations for myself and I'm disappointed I wasn't able to shoot the ball better."

**LEONARD STEPS UP**

With teammate Paul George out over the last six games, Leonard has averaged 36 and at least 30 in every game. □

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Captain Herby would catch the fish to be served at the restaurant the same day. That concept still lives, what is 'hooked' during the day is cooked in the evening at the restaurant. Herby shares his experience with his crew, who take out guests daily on their tournament rigged 35ft twin engine

Bertram "Driftwood" or on their more spacious 37ft twin engine Bertram called "Living Easy". Both yachts are available for charters from 8am to 12 noon, or from 1 to 5pm (6-hour trips also available). To book a fishing charter visit [www.driftwoodfishingcharters.com](http://www.driftwoodfishingcharters.com) or call Herbert direct at (297)-5924040.



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## MLB to test but not use computer umpers at spring training

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Major League Baseball will test computer plate umpires during spring training but will not use the system for decisions in any exhibition games.

MLB experimented with the automated balls and strikes system during the second half of last season in the independent Atlantic League, and the Arizona Fall League used it for a few dozen games at Salt River Fields. The Major League Baseball Umpires Association agreed last month to cooperate and assist if Commissioner Rob Manfred decides to utilize the system at the major league level.

"We will be running the automated balls and strikes system only in test mode but will not actually use it to call balls and strikes in spring training games," the commissioner's office said in a statement. "It will be available in nine spring

training facilities for later use during the Florida State League season."

Plate umpires hear the computerized ball/strike calls via earpieces. The human umpers decide on checked swings and other plays.

Manfred spoke about the system in an interview with Fox at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

"We believe over the long haul it's going to be more accurate. It will reduce controversy in the game and be good for the game," he said. "The current strike zone design is actually three-dimensional, and a camera is better at calling a three-dimensional strike zone than the human eye."

Manfred also addressed his Jan. 13 decision to discipline the Houston Astros for using a video camera to steal signs in violation of rules during 2017 and 2018.



**In this July 10, 2019, file photo, home plate umpire Brian deBrauwer, left, huddles with officials while wearing an earpiece connected to a ball and strikes calling system before the Atlantic League All-Star minor league baseball game in York, Pa.**

**Associated Press**

Manfred suspended manager AJ Hinch and general manager Jeff Luhnow for one season each, and both were fired by the team. He fined the team \$5 million and stripped the Astros of their next two first- and second-round draft picks. MLB also is investigating whether Boston stole signs

in 2018, and Manfred withheld a decision on Red Sox manager Alex Cora, whom Manfred concluded was involved in sign stealing by the Astros when he was Houston's bench coach in 2017.

Cora lost his job as Boston manager and Carlos Beltrán, implicated by Man-

fred as a senior player on the 2017 Astros, quit his new job as manager of the New York Mets.

Manfred said stripping the 2017 Astros and 2018 Red Sox of their World Series titles was not considered. The Dodgers lost both World Series, and the Los Angeles City Council adopted a resolution Tuesday asking MLB to award the Dodgers both championships.

"We haven't concluded our investigation with the Red Sox, so it's a little hard to take the trophy away from somebody who hasn't yet been found to do something wrong," Manfred said.

"We don't know what the outcome of that's going to be. I think that the second flaw is whatever the impact of the sign stealing was, it could have changed who was in the World Series — absolutely unclear that the Dodgers would have been the World Series champion. □

# Giants' Eli Manning retires after 16 seasons, 2 Super Bowls

By TOM CANAVAN

AP Sports Writer

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)

— Eli Manning, who led the New York Giants to two Super Bowls in a 16-year career that saw him set almost every team passing record, has retired.

The Giants said Wednesday that Manning would formally announce his retirement on Friday.

The recently turned 39-year-old's future had been in doubt since the end of the season. Manning's contract with the Giants expired after the 4-12 season and there was little chance he would be returning after losing his long-time starting job to rookie Daniel Jones. Manning said he wanted to think about his future after the season and roughly three weeks after the season ended he decided his career was over.

"For 16 seasons, Eli Manning defined what it is to be a New York Giant both on and off the field," John Mara, the Giants' president and chief executive officer

said in a statement.

"Eli is our only two-time Super Bowl MVP and one of the very best players in our franchise's history. He represented our franchise as a consummate professional with dignity and accountability. It meant something to Eli to be the Giants quarterback, and it meant even more to us. We are beyond grateful for his contributions to our organization and look forward to celebrating his induction into the Giants Ring of Honor in the near future."

The Giants acquired Manning from San Diego on draft day in 2004 after the Ole Miss quarterback told the Chargers he did not want to play for them and forced the deal that general manager Ernie Accorsi gladly accepted.

It started a major turnaround for a team that was 4-12 the previous season.

Manning replaced Hall of Famer Kurt Warner as the starter for then-new coach Tom Coughlin after nine games. They won the NFC



In this Dec. 22, 2019 file photo New York Giants quarterback Eli Manning works out prior to an NFL football game against the Washington Redskins in Landover, Md.

Associated Press

East the following season. Within three seasons, the Giants won their first NFL championship since the 1990 season and Manning got his first Super Bowl MVP award, knocking off the previously unbeaten New

England Patriots. The second came after the 2011 season when Manning and company again beat Tom Brady, Bill Belichick and the Pats.

In both games, Manning hit a clutch late pass on

game-winning drives. He and David Tyree hooked up on the helmet catch in the first one and he found Mario Manningham on sideline go pattern in the second, igniting an 88-yard drive. □

## Browns WR Beckham recovering from surgery on core muscle

By TOM WITHERS

AP Sports Writer

CLEVELAND (AP)

— Odell Beckham Jr. is expected to make a full recovery following surgery on a core muscle injury that limited the star wide receiver during his first season with the Browns.

Beckham had the operation Tuesday to repair a sports hernia that curtailed his speed and production with Cleveland. The three-time Pro Bowler played in all 16 games, but he didn't make the same kind of game-breaking plays that made him so dangerous for the New York Giants.

The Browns said Beckham's operation was performed in Philadelphia by Dr. Bill Meyers, who specializes in an injury describing any muscle tears in the groin or lower abdomen.

The team did not provide a timeline on his return

because it's the offseason. Browns running back Kareem Hunt needed approximately eight weeks to recover from a similar procedure last year.

The Browns also said Pro Bowl receiver Jarvis Landry will not have surgery on a hip injury that slowed him during Cleveland's 6-10 season. Landry recently underwent an MRI and consulted with a specialist. He's been cleared to play in the Pro Bowl.

If he had needed surgery, which Landry called "a last resort," he could have been sidelined for eight months. He had a team-high 83 receptions for 1,174 yards and six TDs last season.

Beckham's injury could explain a dip in his statistics. He caught 74 passes for 1,035 yards but scored just four touchdowns, his fewest in a full season. The 27-year-old said he initially got hurt

during training camp. He didn't play in any exhibition games, was limited in practice for much of the year and said he was never able to cut loose and run his fastest because of the injury.

"I've been playing through it, doing whatever I can just to make it to Sunday for the game," Beckham said late in the season. "So anytime that Sunday comes around, 1 o'clock, 4 o'clock, 8, Monday night, Thursday, I'm going to give this team everything that I have. No matter what."

Last week, Beckham made news off the field for his behavior following LSU's national championship victory over Clemson in New Orleans. He was caught on video swatting a Superdome security officer's buttocks as the Tigers celebrated in their locker room.

New Orleans police issued



In this Dec. 22, 2019, file photo, Cleveland Browns wide receiver Odell Beckham Jr. reacts before an NFL football game against the Baltimore Ravens, in Cleveland.

Associated Press

a misdemeanor simple battery warrant for Beckham, but it was later rescinded after the officer dropped the charge.

Beckham also caused a stir after the game by placing money in the hand of LSU receiver Justin Jefferson. The school contacted the NCAA and Southeastern Conference in case there was any violation.

Beckham starred for the Tigers — and was Landry's LSU teammate — from 2011

to 2013.

He caused plenty of distractions for the Browns this year, whether it was breaking NFL rules for wearing a watch in games or an illegal visor or unsanctioned cleats. Beckham also had to quell reports he was telling opposing players he wanted out of Cleveland.

"I'm not going anywhere. I'll be here," he said last month. "We're going to figure this thing out. It's just too special to leave." □



In this Oct. 6, 2019, file photo, Arizona Cardinals wide receiver Larry Fitzgerald attends a news conference after winning an NFL football game against the Cincinnati Bengals, in Cincinnati. Associated Press

## Cardinals WR Fitzgerald purchases minority stake in Suns

**PHOENIX (AP)** — Arizona Cardinals wide receiver Larry Fitzgerald has purchased a minority stake in the NBA's Phoenix Suns. Fitzgerald just finished his 16th season with the Cardinals and is among the most productive receivers in NFL history. He recently signed a one-year deal to return for 2020. The 36-year-old Fitzgerald is often at Suns games, sitting courtside with managing partner Robert Sarver. Sarver said in a statement

Wednesday that Fitzgerald "has been a great ambassador for our organization for years" and "brings a unique perspective from outside basketball but still grounded in sport, and we welcome him as a valued partner and investor." Fitzgerald, an 11-time Pro Bowler, said he "has a special place in my heart for the Phoenix Suns and Mercury, and I have a great deal of respect for Robert." Terms of the purchase were not disclosed. □

## Lynx star Maya Moore opts to stay on hiatus from WNBA in '20

**MINNEAPOLIS (AP)** — Minnesota Lynx star Maya Moore will sit out a second straight WNBA season to continue her push for criminal justice reform. Moore told The New York Times in a story published Wednesday of her choice to stay off the court for 2020. She said in her interview with the newspaper that she's not ready to retire. Moore's agent confirmed her decision to The Associated Press. The 30-year-old, who won the WNBA Most Valuable Player award in 2014 and was a five-time first team All-WNBA selection, also cited fatigue when she first surprised the basketball world last winter by an-

nouncing she would step away. Head coach and general manager Cheryl Reeve said Wednesday in a statement issued by the club that the Lynx have "been in frequent contact" with Moore over the last year and praised her "fully engaged" effort in criminal justice reform and ministry. Reeve did not address Moore's playing status. "We are proud of the ways that Maya is advocating for justice and using her platform to impact social change," Reeve said. Moore has also helped the U.S. women's team win two Olympic gold medals, but her decision puts her status for the 2020 Summer Games in Tokyo in doubt. □



This is a 2019 photo showing Luis Rojas of the New York Mets baseball team. Associated Press

## Mets pick Luis Rojas to replace Carlos Beltrán as manager

**By MIKE FITZPATRICK**  
**NEW YORK (AP)** — Caught off guard in a quick split with Carlos Beltrán, the New York Mets want some continuity for a change. So with spring training only three weeks away, they picked his replacement from their very own bench. The club was working Wednesday to complete a multiyear agreement with quality control coach Luis Rojas that would make him New York's fourth manager in the past 2 1/2 years — and third in four months. "He has a good finger on the pulse of this particular team. He was part of it last year," general manager Brodie Van Wagenen said. "He knows these guys, and he knows how to communicate to them. Every returning player on the roster has a relationship with him, and that's valuable to us at this time." Rojas would take over for Beltrán, let go by the Mets last week before managing a single game as part of the fallout from the Houston Astros' sign-stealing scandal. The 38-year-old Rojas is the son of former Montreal Expos and San Francisco Giants manager Felipe Alou and the brother of ex-big league outfielder Moises Alou, who spent the last

two seasons of his career with the Mets from 2007-08. A minor league manager for eight years, Rojas has worked in the organization since 2007 but had never coached in the majors before joining Mickey Callaway's staff last season. "Luis earned this job. He has literally trained his whole life to be a manager," Van Wagenen said. "He is considered one of the better in-game decision makers simply that we have in the organization." Rojas' duties in the dugout as quality control coach included serving as "a conduit between the front office and coaching staff on all issues including game preparation, strategy and analytics," according to the team's media guide. He was New York's outfield coach in 2019 and led the effort in preparing hitters for opposing pitchers, Van Wagenen said. Callaway was fired after the season, and Rojas interviewed for the vacancy before New York hired Beltrán on Nov. 1. Van Wagenen said Rojas knew he was "a serious candidate" back in October. "It's always helpful to have familiarity," Van Wagenen said. "The fact that he was so actively involved with the coaches this fall in

preparation for spring training, in preparation for the season — he was already asserting himself more in a leadership role with this new coaching staff and helping Carlos learn some of the managerial things that he hadn't been exposed to before." That played "a significant role" in the Mets choosing Rojas, according to Van Wagenen. The team decided against external options such as ESPN analyst Eduardo Pérez, who interviewed for the job last fall. "I think it's the fit, it's where the team is, it's what culture we're trying to create," Van Wagenen said, pointing out that most of New York's homegrown talent played for Rojas in the minors. "He's respected by the players, he's trusted by the players and he's someone that we have great confidence in." Beltrán's tenure lasted just 2½ months and ended after Commissioner Rob Manfred singled him out last week in a report on a cheating scheme used by the Astros during their World Series championship season in 2017, when Beltrán played for them. No players were disciplined by Major League Baseball, but three days later the Mets announced Beltrán was out as manager. □

Continued from Page 17

Need more? Look no further than Royal Melbourne, where Woods split time as Presidents Cup captain and player, and he won all three matches he played. He was particularly crisp on a course that demanded precision.

And now he returns at Torrey Pines, where he has won eight times in his pro career, including the 2008 U.S. Open.

Woods showed up Tuesday morning in the drizzle of a gray sky. GolfTV, with which he has an endorsement deal, was there to document Woods tying his shoes at his car and walking through the parking lot. The next victory is for the record, if not now then soon.

"Just trying to get to 83... I really don't think about it because I have to think about all the things I need to do to win the tournaments," Woods said. "There's so many different shots I have to play, and strategy, and thinking my way around the golf course, that I'm more consumed in that."

Good health is tantamount to good play, particularly for a guy who turned 44 last month and has had more back surgeries (4) than victories (3) in the last five years.

And as much resiliency as Woods has shown in returning from so many dark times brought on by so much uncertainty, there is a practical side to him. It's never easy to win, no matter how often he once made it look

that way.

One of the more telling moments was at this tournament in 2008. Woods made birdie on the 18th hole of the tougher South Course at Torrey to open with a 67. John Wood, at the time caddying for Hunter Mahan in the group ahead, stayed behind to watch and said, "He just won two tournaments with one round." Woods won by eight shots that week, and the U.S. Open that summer. He was 32, still five months away from surgery to rebuild his left knee.

Winning is harder than ever, mainly because of his age. The competition is younger and deeper than ever. Woods plays Thursday alongside Collin Morikawa, who wasn't born until Woods already had three PGA Tour victories.

"When I was younger, I had more good days than bad, feeling-wise," Woods said. "Now at 44, I feel more bad days than I do good days. I think all of you at my age or older can relate to that. I think that's the hardest part about being an older athlete. You see it all the time at the Masters."

He mentioned Fred Couples and Bernhard Langer, who were in the mix at Augusta National well beyond 50, but faded at some point on the weekend.

"It's hard to put it together for all four days as you get older," Woods said. "It's just harder." Woods wasn't that old when he won his fifth Masters in April, but given



In this April 14, 2019, file photo, Tiger Woods smiles as he wears his green jacket after winning the Masters golf tournament in Augusta, Ga.

Associated Press

his health ordeals, he might feel that way. He didn't fade — he's Tiger Woods, and they're not — though he needed help for the first time in his 15 major wins.

"I've been able to have won a few tournaments since I've made my comeback, and hopefully, I win some more," he said.

Woods spoke on the day Nicklaus turned 80. Of Nicklaus' record 18 majors, what stands out is the last one in 1986 at the Masters. One tale from that week was a story by Tom McColister in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, who assessed his chances by writing that "Nicklaus is gone, done. He

just doesn't have the game anymore."

Only two players older than 46 had ever won a major, none since then. So it was a surprise. Would anyone be surprised if Woods repeated at Augusta National? Probably not. Winning anywhere again to set a new standard of winning on the PGA Tour? That's practically a given, isn't it?

Woods isn't willing to look that far ahead. Even when his biggest challenge is time, there is no urgency about him. He chose not to look back at time lost when he was putting his personal life back together after his notorious divorce, and then

putting his body back together from leg and back injuries.

In the decade after Woods won his 14th major at Torrey Pines, he didn't even play in 14 majors. And there was a time not long ago he wasn't sure he would play again.

"Yes, there were a number of years where I didn't compete and didn't play, so those were some missed opportunities," he said. "But granted, I'm playing again now so these are blessed opportunities. I didn't think I would have these."

With opportunities come expectations. Young or old, that doesn't change. □

## Soccer players union promises to defend Olympic protesters

By GRAHAM DUNBAR

**GENEVA (AP)** — Soccer players who defy Olympic rules by making protest gestures at the 2020 Tokyo Games will be supported by their global union.

Freedom of speech on issues like anti-discrimination and gender equality needs to be protected from "a hypocritical rule," FIFPro general secretary Jonas Baer-Hoffmann said Wednesday at a United Nations labor agency conference.

The International Olympic

Committee revived the debate on athlete rights this month by publishing details of protests in venues and medal ceremonies that can lead to disciplinary action, including being sent home from Tokyo.

Taking a knee, hand gestures with political meaning — such as raised fist salutes — and snubbing a fellow medalist on the podium are specific types of demonstrations long prohibited by Rule 50 of the Olympic Charter.

"We feel their freedom of

expression overrides any other interest that may be in play here," said Baer-Hoffmann, whose union represents 65,000 professional players.

He praised players who have fuelled "these fundamental debates" in soccer by speaking out about racism and equal pay for women.

"They are trailblazers but, on the one hand, they are being welcomed by people to take this forward and make sport appear as a change agent in society,"



Thomas Bach, president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), delivers a speech during the 135th Session of the IOC on the sideline of the the 3rd Winter Youth Olympic Games Lausanne 2020, at the SwissTech Convention Centre, in Lausanne, Switzerland, Friday, Jan. 10, 2020.

Associated Press

Baer-Hoffmann said. "And, on the other, now we have a hypocritical rule that says

if you do it in our venues, we think this is a sanctionable offense." □



Clouds drift over the European Central Bank, right, in Frankfurt, Germany, Saturday, Jan. 18, 2020.

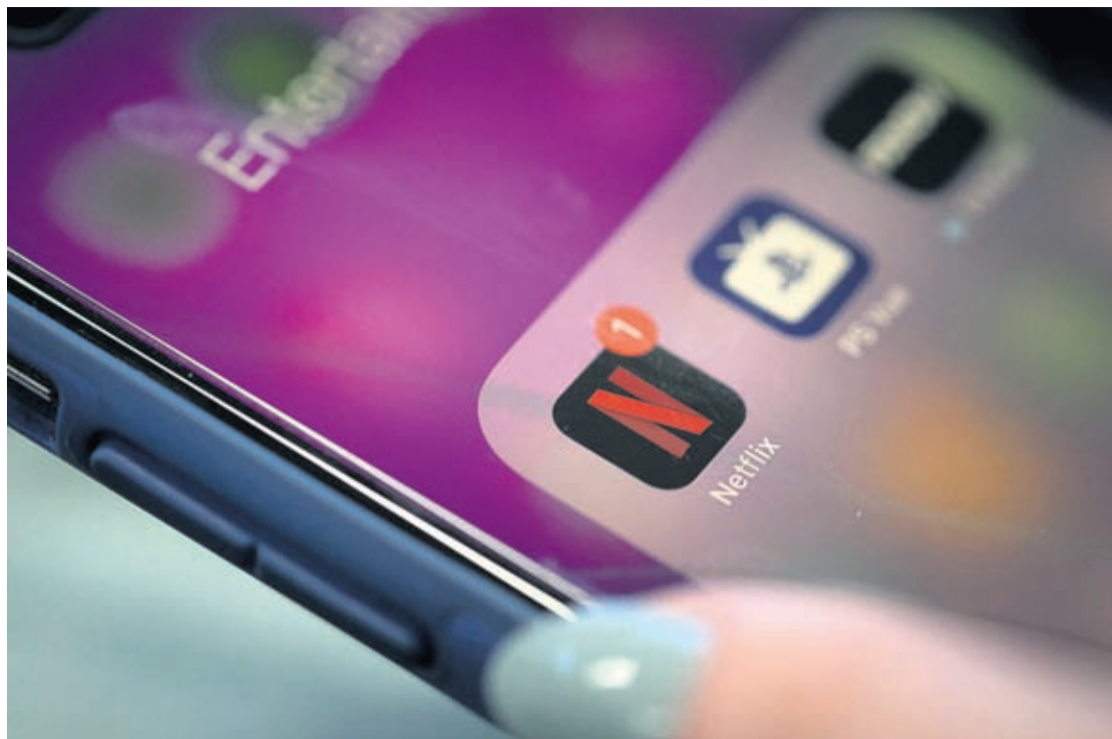
Associated Press

## Central banks join to study possible digital currencies

**FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)** — Major central banks have joined together to explore whether they should issue digital currencies as the use of cash declines and more people turn to electronic forms of paying. The study group is made up of the European Central Bank, the Bank of Japan, the Bank of Canada, the Bank of England, the Swedish Riksbank and the Swiss National Bank. They said in a statement Tuesday that they will assess the potential case for digital currencies in their home jurisdictions. The Swedish central bank has already studied the issue for several years and has commissioned a pilot project as the use of cash declines in that country. No decision has been made. Existing cryptocurrencies such as bitcoin are not suited for paying for things because they can fluctuate sharply in value. Facebook has backed the Libra project for a so-called stablecoin, a digital currency linked to existing currencies. Several major partners such as Visa, Mastercard, PayPal and eBay have left the association set up to oversee Libra as it faces pushback from regulatory authorities. □

## U.S. official: China steals 'massive amounts' of data in West

**PARIS (AP)** — China is stealing "massive amounts" of data from Western companies and Iran has stolen data from some 200 universities, the top U.S. cybersecurity diplomat said Wednesday. Robert Strayer, deputy assistant secretary of state for cyber and international communications, said in Paris that the data theft "happens on a regular basis." Over the last few years, the Chinese "compromised the largest of the global service providers and cloud providers ... and they use that to gain access to the corporate databases of major, large companies," he told reporters. The stolen data is "in some cases" given to private industry within China "to compete against" the companies they stole from, Strayer said. "So that happens on a regular basis," he added. Strayer was in Paris along with a Justice Department official to convince France not to use Huawei technology from China, at least in the sensitive core of their networks, due to security risks. □



This Oct. 8, 2019, file photo shows the Netflix app on an iPhone in New York.

Associated Press

## Netflix holds its own in the streaming wars - for now

**SAN FRANCISCO (AP)** — Netflix is holding its ground in the streaming wars, passing its first big test since Apple and Disney launched rival services. The company added 8.8 million worldwide subscribers during its fourth quarter, surpassing expectations at a time when it faces heated competition. Netflix had said it expected to add 7.6 million subscribers, and analysts thought the service would fare even better. The increase pales slightly next to the 8.9 million subscribers the service added in the fourth quarter of 2018. The stock dropped about 2.5% immediately in after-hours trading, likely due to a cautious forecast for the first quarter. But shares rebounded and later traded up more than 2%. The company — a pioneer in producing streaming media and binge-worthy shows — now boasts more than 167 million subscribers worldwide, bolstered by a list of well-received movies and shows released late last year. That includes the fantasy show "The Witcher" and Oscar nominees "The Irishman" and "Marriage Story." The boost helps reaffirm Netflix's strong standing in the increasingly crowded

world of video streaming. The fourth quarter was an important milestone for Netflix, as it was marked its first head-to-head competition with Apple's \$5-per-month streaming service and Disney's instantly popular \$7-a-month option. Still, it's unlikely to be a smooth road for Netflix. NBC, HBO and startup Quibi are all planning to launch new streaming services soon. Two big questions loom: How much are consumers willing to pay for each video streaming option? And how many will they pay for before reaching subscription fatigue? Netflix CEO Reed Hastings acknowledged the increased competition in a call following earnings, but said he believes the services are mostly capturing new viewers who are transitioning from traditional TV watching. "It takes away a little bit from us," he said of the Disney Plus launch. "But again, most of the growth in the future is coming out of linear TV." Netflix has one major advantage over competitors: it has been collecting data on the shows viewers crave for years. "Netflix's scale allows it to reach mass audiences,

which makes it easier for them to create hits when compared to newcomers to the market," EMarketer analyst Eric Haggstrom said. Netflix's most popular plan costs \$13 a month, far more than competitors from Disney, Apple and Quibi. But its price is comparable to HBO Now, and it boasts one of the largest libraries of TV shows and movies, not to mention regularly updated original shows. Hastings reiterated that Netflix isn't interested in introducing ads. Noting that the digital advertising market is dominated by companies such as Google, Amazon and Facebook, he said, "there's not easy money there." It's also less controversial to avoid digital advertising and the scrutiny around companies making customers' personal information that comes with it, he said. In its quarterly letter to shareholders, Netflix included a chart of Google search trends that showed people searching more often for "The Witcher" than for competing shows including "The Mandalorian," "The Morning Show" and "Jack Ryan," from Disney, Apple and Amazon, respectively. □



# U.S.-French tax truce a respite in tense relations with EU

By PAN PYLAS and JAMEY KEATEN

Associated Press

DAVOS, Switzerland (AP)

— France will delay its tax on big tech firms like Google and Facebook in exchange for the United States's promise to hold off retaliatory tariffs — a potential sign of goodwill in the U.S. and European Union's increasingly tense relations over trade.

After U.S. President Donald Trump threatened the EU with bigger tariffs, French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire said Wednesday he had negotiated a truce with U.S. Treasury chief Steven Mnuchin on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

Le Maire said France would delay collection of the digital tax until December, parking the issue until after the next U.S. presidential election where Trump hopes to secure another four-year term.

The 3% tax on the revenues of big internet companies only came into force last July and prompted outrage



U.S. President Donald Trump, Jared Kushner, left, and Ivanka Trump, behind the President, leave the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2020.

Associated Press

in the U.S., which launched retaliatory tariffs against French wine, cheese and other products.

The two countries eventually agreed a month later to try to create an international agreement on how to tax digital business by mid-2020, but neither side would back off their puni-

five taxes. They agreed to on Wednesday in Davos.

Le Maire, Mnuchin and the head of the Paris-based Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, José Ángel Gurría, will meet Thursday to work on an international approach to taxes on digital companies.

"I absolutely expect we will come to a solution because there is no plan B," Gurría told The Associated Press earlier in Davos.

It remains unclear whether they can find an international agreement, as it would involve dozens of countries with often conflicting views.

Le Maire said France was not in a position to scrap its tax until such an international accord has been reached and insisted that companies reliant on internet business need to pay taxes wherever they are based and wherever they operate.

The French measure is an attempt to get around tax avoidance measures by multinationals, which pay most of their taxes in the EU country they are based in — often at very low rates. That effectively means the companies pay next to no tax in countries where they have large operations

"Digital companies will pay their fair tax in 2020," Le Maire told reporters in Davos.

At face value, the deal appears to dial down the risk of a wider trade war between the U.S. and the EU, of which France is part of.

However, Trump and Mnuchin both took a noticeably tough line on the EU that stoked concerns that the months ahead could see a new escalation in trade tensions. □

# Tesla passes \$100 billion, teeing up big payout for Musk

DETROIT (AP) — The meteoric rise of Tesla shares that recently pushed the company's value over \$100 billion could turn into a supercharged payday for CEO Elon Musk.

Stock in Tesla Inc. rose another 4.1% Wednesday, pushing the market value of the electric vehicle and solar panel maker past a critical milestone in Musk's pay package. He could get a stock options package worth over \$371 million.

Tesla shares closed at \$569.56 on Wednesday, giving the company a market capitalization of \$102.7 billion.

Shares have tripled in value since May, meaning Tesla's market capitalization now exceeds the value of Ford and General Motors, combined. For Musk, hitting \$100 billion in market value triggers an option to buy 1.69 million shares of Tesla stock

for \$350.02 per share. If he sells the shares, he would make just over \$371 million. But for the options to vest, the market capitalization has to average above \$100 billion for the next six months, and it has to be



In this Nov. 10, 2019, file photo an unsold Model X sports-utility vehicle sits with other vehicles at a Tesla dealership in Littleton, Colo.

Associated Press

above \$100 billion for the next 30 business days, according to the compen-

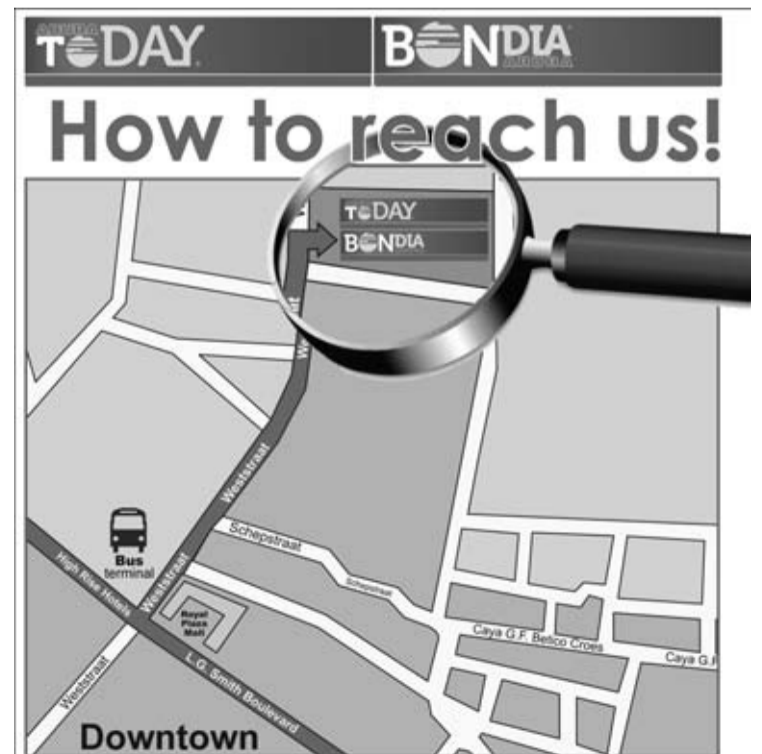
sation packages detailed in company filings with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

Musk could get more stock payouts for every additional \$50 billion increase in market capitalization. By

earn more than \$50 billion over the next decade if that value hits \$650 billion.

In the third quarter, Tesla posted a surprising \$143 million profit, raising hopes that the company, which also makes battery storage

units, could finally be turning the corner to profitability. But Tesla has posted mostly losses during its first decade as a publicly held company, and it lost \$1.1 billion during the first half of last year. □



**Mutts**



1-23

I FeLL in LOVe ToDay!  
 WiTh EvERyONE!  
 AGaIN!!!

mutts.com

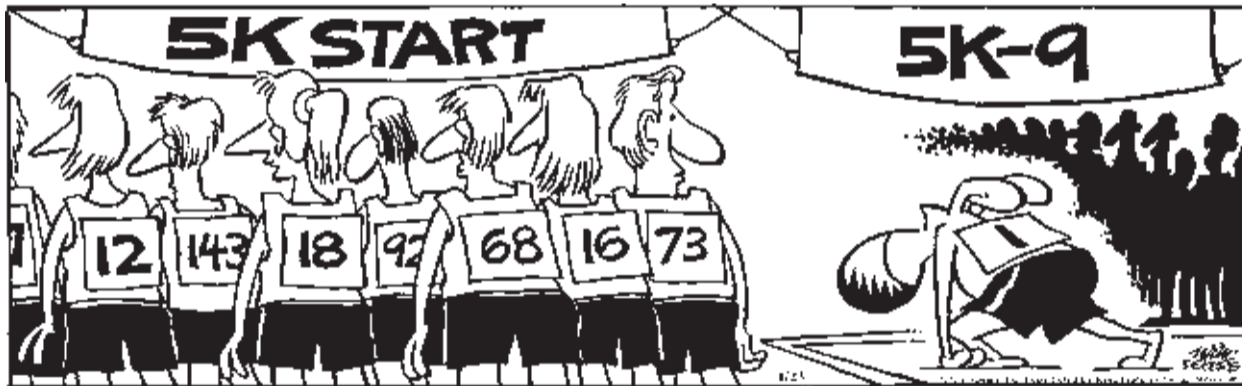
**6 Chix**



**Blondie**



**Mother Goose & Grimm**



**Baby Blues**



**Zits**



**Conceptis Sudoku**

1	6			4	9
3			4		5
		8		2	
	1	8			7
		3		4	
9			5		4
			2		
8	5			9	6

Difficulty Level ★★★

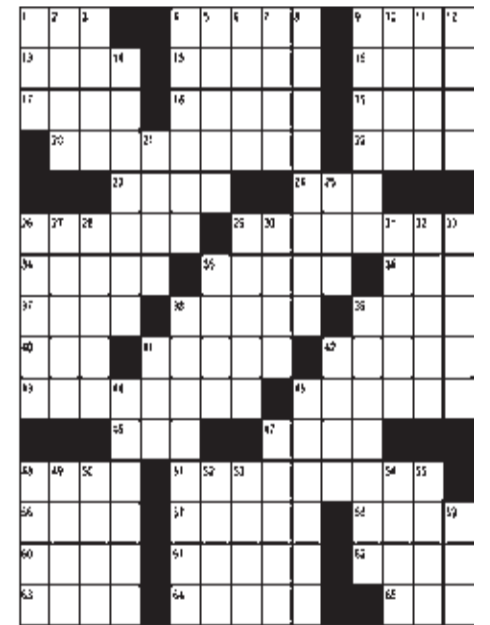
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

4	2	8	6	9	1	7	3	5
3	6	7	5	2	8	9	4	1
5	9	1	3	7	4	6	2	8
8	3	6	9	1	2	5	7	4
9	4	5	7	8	3	1	6	2
1	7	2	4	6	5	3	8	9
6	1	4	8	3	9	2	5	7
2	8	3	1	5	7	4	9	6
7	5	9	2	4	6	8	1	3

**ACROSS**

- 1 Po. away bed
- 4 Batt. verbally
- 9 Lie next to
- 13 Brightness
- 15 Live's partner, in chaise
- 16 Forbidden thing
- 17 Since's request
- 18 A: : free to roam
- 19 Big smile
- 20 Thirty days' wait
- 22 Covetousness
- 23 Tactile supports
- 24 "My Sal"
- 26 down: copy-turvy
- 29 Troublemaker
- 34 n: brings under control
- 35 Forest fire
- 38 Access
- 39 Volcanic
- 37 Sudden outburst
- 38 Steer clear of
- 39 Bread for a gyro
- 40 Hardware store chain
- 41 Beats severely
- 42 Out of style
- 43 Recent arrival
- 45 Money hoarders
- 46 P: light; resist
- 47 Bakery desserts
- 48 Dictionary entry
- 51 Abandoning
- 58 Gang ho
- 57 Egypt's capital
- 58 Requirement
- 60 Pedicure
- 61 Stomach ache
- 62 Terminal-to-plane entryway
- 63 on; victimize
- 64 Canary's lunch
- 65 Trottled



Created by Jacqueline E. Matthews

1/23/20

**Wednesday's Puzzle Solved**

BUG	STALL	PRIM
DANA	PIXIE	LATE
ARMS	ALLEGIANCE	
DDE	GREEN	SIGHT
RULES	PAN	
SACRED	BEASTS	
ALIGN	LILAC	RAT
FIFE	BONUS	WINE
EAU	FLAKE	PRATE
SLALOM	ARENAS	
TUB	WRONG	
SCOOT	FROND	UPS
NOM	DEPLUME	CLUE
AVID	RISES	HART
GETS	OPENS	IRE

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1/23/20

**DOWN**

- 1 Tam or beret
- 2 Vary of var
- 3 Cypress or spruce
- 4 Assert without proof
- 5 Not fresh & original
- 6 space: NASA's realm
- 7 Peruses
- 8 Firm or licu
- 9 Capital of Syria
- 10 Short-lived
- 11 Brown or
- 12 Broadway award
- 14 Young tree
- 21 Allen & Danson
- 25 Good-bye up
- 26 Not rural
- 27 Tranquility
- 28 Tough horror issue
- 29 Birch tree variety
- 30 Chokes
- 31 Not fresh & original
- 32 space: NASA's realm
- 33 Peruses
- 35 Firm or licu
- 38 Capital of Syria
- 39 Short-lived

- 41 Black-and-white driver
- 42 Passed away
- 44 Like a big stuffed animal
- 45 Those not yet of age
- 47 Rotten apple skin
- 48 Flying insect
- 49 Finished, done
- 50 Peeve
- 52 Narrative
- 53 Gran
- 54 Close by
- 55 grid: cry to the system
- 59 Corby room

# Classifieds

**SALE DIVI GOLF WK 35**  
 RM 4201, 25 wks left \$1695  
 also wk 50 Golf 12/19 \$2750  
 also Divi Dutch wk 35 RM 128  
 \$1695  
 508 651 0016  
 local 565 9394 till 1/18  
 E-mail: rmwjmw@aol.com

**PARADISE BEACH VILLA**  
**2 BR Week 5 RM 102**  
 garden view contact RM 102  
 wk 2 thru 5 Phone USA  
 1-508 883 9170  
 E-mail: linrog75@verizon.net

**FOR SALE BY OWNER**  
**weeks 2,3 & 4 Eagle**  
 Aruba, newly renovated  
 one bedroom (7 K each)  
 contact:  
 janellemickelson@gmail.com

**Casa del Mar 2BR/2B**  
 Week 1/Unit 1408 (15k);  
 Week 2/1113 (\$16k);  
 Weeks 5&6/1315 (\$18k/Wk.);  
 5&6/1521 (\$20k/Wk.);  
 Week 7/1308; 7&8/1408  
 (\$18k/Wk.);  
 Week 8/1113; 8/1409  
 (\$17k/Wk.);  
 Weeks 9-15 also available!  
 CDMOwner@gmail.com  
 U.S. (860)992-3890

**Aruba Divi Phoenix**  
 3 BR Penhouse 671  
 2 story 2 balcony  
 Weeks 3 and 4  
 34 Weeks remaining  
 starting 2021  
 \$55k each week  
 Claudio 561-247-6896

**EAGLE ARUBA**  
 week 1,2,3,4+5,6  
 1 BR 1st floor \$6500  
**Paradise Beach**  
 week 50 Studio \$4000 each  
 2 BR wk 51-52 \$15000 each  
 Home 1518 537 6406  
 Cel. 1518 965 7878

**SALE DIVI PHOENIX**  
 WK 34 RM 107, 8/25  
 \$2850 and Divi Dutch Village  
 wk 17 RM 3205 \$1650 also  
 Royal Holidays World Wide  
 Vacation Club contract 295  
 508 651 0016  
 local 565 9394 till 1/18  
 E-mail: rmwjmw@aol.com

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## Halley Time Travel

**For Rent**  
**Marriott Ocean Club**  
 1 BR Ocean View Platinum  
 Price : \$2.8 K each  
 Date : 03/22 to 03/29/2020  
 Date : 03/20 to 03/27/2020  
 Date : 02/21 to 02/27/2020  
 Date : 01/17 to 02/22/2021

**Marriott Surf Club**  
 2 BR Ocean Side Platinum  
 Date : 03/6 to 03/13/ 2020  
 \$4 K

**Divi Links Golf**  
 Studio wk 7 \$1,5 K  
 sleep 4 date ;02/15 to 02/22/  
 2020

**For Sale**  
**Marriott Ocean Club**  
 Platinum  
 1 BR Ocean View \$ 9 K  
 1 BR Ocean Front \$20 K  
 2 BR Ocean View \$17 K  
 2 BR Ocean Front \$26 K  
**Marriott Surf Club**  
 Platinum  
 2 BR Ocean View \$ 16 K  
 2 BR Ocean Side \$ 17 K  
 2 BR Ocean Front \$ 26 K  
 3 BR Ocean View \$ 26 K

**Aruba Divi Phoenix**  
 1 BR WK 2  
 building 8 Ground floor  
 32 weeks remain \$17 K  
 1 BR WK 8 \$15 K  
 building 6 on the 4th floor  
 27 weeks remain

**Aruba Divi Phoenix**  
 1 BR PH WK 8/9 \$20 K both  
 14th floor 32/22 weeks remain  
 1 BR WK 11  
 building 7 on the 3th floor  
 33 weeks remain \$15 K

**Divi Links Golf**  
 1 BR wk 1/2/3  
 Birdie 2 on the 3rd floor  
 25 weeks remain on each  
 All 3 weeks together 30 K each  
**Divi Links Golf**  
 Studio WK 2 \$7.5 K  
 eagle 3 with 32 weeks remain  
 1 BR WK 3 \$8.5 K  
 eagle 3 with 23 weeks remain  
 Studio wk 5 ,7 and 8 \$8 K each  
 Birdie 4 with 28/27/29 weeks  
 remain

**Divi Links Golf**  
 2 BR WK 3 \$ 20 K  
 Eagle 8 with 25 weeks remain  
 2 BR wk 3 Lock out \$20 K  
 Birdie 9 26 weeks remain  
**Divi Links Golf \$8 K**  
 1 Br Wk 4 Birdie 1  
 19 weeks remain  
 1 BR WK 6 Birdie 1 \$8 K

**Divi Village**  
 1 BR WK 52/01 \$20 K both  
 weeks  
 3rd floor and 2nd floor  
 C -Building 24 /19 weeks remain  
 Studio WK 1 \$7.5 K  
 Ground Floor 33 weeks remain

**Divi Village**  
 1 BR WK 1 \$8.5 K  
 Studio wk 1 \$7.5 K  
 building D& F 25 weeks remain  
 each

**Divi Links Golf**  
 Studio wk 1 \$7.5 K  
 building 4 with 28 weeks remain  
**Paradise Beach Villas**  
 1 BR WK 1 & 2 \$20 K both  
 weeks  
 2sd floor poo/ocean view

**Divi Links Golf**  
 1 BR wk 8 & 9 \$9.5 K each  
 eagle 9 with 27/19 weeks  
 remain

**Renaissance Suites**  
 1 BR WK 9 \$9 K  
 3rd floor pool/ocean view  
 1 BR WK 9 \$9 K  
 3 th floor harbor view  
 1 BR WK 10 & 11 \$8.5 K each  
 5th floor garden view

**Eagle Resorts**  
 1 BR WK 2 \$8 K  
 1 BR WK 5,6,7,8  
 Ground floor \$8 K each  
 1 BR WK 7/8/9 \$8 K each  
**Caribbean Palm Village**  
 1 BR WK 2 6 K  
 1 BR /2 BR wk 3 \$ 7 K  
 1 BR WK 3/4 \$6 K each  
 2 BR WK 5/6 \$7 K each

**House For Sale**  
 Ponton \$370 K  
 4 BR 3 Bath Pool  
 Tibushie Noord \$300 K  
 2 Bath ,2 bath Pool  
**Tierra Del sol**  
 3 BR 2 Bath \$ 520 K

**Le Vent Condo**  
 3 BR , 2 Bath \$ 650 K  
 Property Land Tibushie Noord  
 4208 sq feet \$100 K  
 Property Land Commercial  
 Barcadera 145.300 sq feet  
 \$60 sq feet

**Divi Village**  
 Studio wk 6 \$ 7.5 K  
 building F with 21 weeks remain  
 2 sd floor 18 weeks remain

## HEALTH

### DOCTOR ON DUTY

**Oranjestad**  
 Hospital 7:00 pm / 10:00pm  
 Tel. 527 4000

**San Nicolas**  
 IMSAN 24 Hours  
 Tel.524 8833

### PHARMACY ON DUTY

**Oranjestad:**  
 Eagle Tel. 587 9011  
**San Nicolas:**  
 Centro Medico Tel. 584 5794

### OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850  
 Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002  
 Urgent Care 586 0448  
 Walk-In Doctor's Clinic  
 +297 588 0539

### EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
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A box of masks imported from Japan sits inside a Yifeng Pharmacy in Wuhan, China, Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2020. Associated Press

## Science Says: What to know about the viral outbreak in China

**By The Associated Press**  
Health authorities are closely watching an outbreak of respiratory illness caused by a new virus that originated in China. Governments are stepping up surveillance of airline passengers from central China and taking other steps to try to control the outbreak. Here's what you should know about the illness:

**WHAT IS THE NEW VIRUS?**  
Scientists have identified it as a new coronavirus. The name comes from the Latin word for crowns or halos, which coronaviruses resemble under a microscope. The coronavirus family has many types that affect people. Some cause the common cold while others originating in bats, camels and other animals have evolved into more severe illnesses such as SARS — severe acute respiratory syndrome — or MERS — Middle East respiratory syndrome.

**WHERE DID IT COME FROM?**  
The first cases appeared last month in Wuhan, a city in central China's Hubei province. Many of the first people infected had vis-

ited or worked at the Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market in Wuhan, which has since been closed for an investigation. Chinese health officials say they believe the illness first spread from animals to people. They now say it can spread between people.

**HOW WIDESPREAD IS IT?**  
China has identified more than 500 cases and 17 deaths, most of the illnesses and all of the deaths in Hubei province. Cases have also been confirmed in Thailand, South Korea, Japan, the U.S. and Taiwan. The outbreak coincides with China's busiest travel season as people visit their families or go abroad for the Lunar New Year holiday. That travel rush is expected to spread the disease more widely.

**WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS?**  
Common symptoms include a runny nose, headache, cough and fever. Shortness of breath, chills and body aches are associated with more dangerous kinds of coronavirus, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. □



This Dec. 18, 2019 photo shows generic acetaminophen capsules in Santa Ana, Calif. Associated Press

## California considers declaring common pain killer carcinogen

**By ADAM BEAM**  
**SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)**

— A fight is coming to California over whether to list one of the world's most common over-the-counter drugs as a carcinogen, echoing recent high-profile battles over things like alcohol and coffee.

The drug is acetaminophen, known outside the U.S. as paracetamol and used to treat pain and fevers. It is the basis for more than 600 prescription and over-the-counter medications for adults and children, found in well-known brands like Tylenol, Excedrin, Sudafed, Robitussin and Theraflu.

Acetaminophen has been available in the U.S. without a prescription since 1955. Concerns about its potential link to cancer come from its relationship to another drug: phenacetin. That drug, once a common treatment for headaches and other ailments, was banned by the FDA in 1983 because it caused cancer. State regulators have reviewed 133 studies about acetaminophen, all of which were published in peer-reviewed journals. Some studies reported an increased risk of some types of cancers, while others did not. Overall, the review noted acetaminophen has

been difficult to examine because it is hard to isolate it from other variables that could contribute to cancer, such as smoking.

A state law known as Proposition 65 says California must warn people of any chemical known to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity. The state's list has grown to about 900 chemicals, including toxic pesticides and flame retardants, and is more extensive than any in the U.S. Some critics say California regulators have been overzealous, requiring warning labels for countless products that confuse instead of inform consumers when the risk of cancer is disputed.

Supporters of Prop 65 say it protects not only Californians but consumers nationwide by compelling manufacturers to make products safer.

Evidence for acetaminophen's link to cancer has been weak enough that the International Agency for Research on Cancer declined to list it as a possible carcinogen following reviews in 1990 and 1999. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has warned state officials that labeling acetaminophen as cancer-causing would be "false and misleading" and also illegal under federal

law. A panel of scientists appointed by the governor can add chemicals to this list. In 2011, the panel voted to make acetaminophen a "high priority" for consideration because it believed there was relevant evidence to consider, according to Sam Delson, spokesman for the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment. The review process has been slow, but the panel is scheduled to have a public hearing on the listing this spring after the public comment period closes on Jan. 27.

"It's a difficult issue because it's a very commonly used drug. But that doesn't make any difference. That's not what our mandate is," said Thomas Mack, chairman of the Carcinogen Identification Committee and a professor of preventive medicine at the University of Southern California.

Adding a chemical to the list can have broad repercussions. After the state listed glyphosate — widely known as the weed killer Roundup — as a carcinogen in 2017, a jury ordered the company that makes Roundup to pay a California couple with cancer more than \$2 billion. □

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In this Saturday, Aug. 21, 2010 file photo, Terry Jones arrives at the Creative Arts Emmy Awards in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

## 'Naughty boy': Monty Python star Terry Jones dies at 77

By JILL LAWLESS

**LONDON (AP)** — Terry Jones, a founding member of the anarchic Monty Python troupe who was hailed by colleagues as "the complete Renaissance comedian" and "a man of endless enthusiasms," has died at age 77 after suffering from dementia.

Jones's family said he died Tuesday evening at his home in London "after a long, extremely brave but always good humored battle with a rare form of dementia."

"We have all lost a kind, funny, warm, creative and truly loving man whose uncompromising individuality, relentless intellect and extraordinary humor has given pleasure to countless millions across six decades," Jones's wife, Anna Soderstrom, and children Bill, Sally and Siri, said in a statement.

Born in Wales in 1942, Jones attended Oxford University, where he began writing and performing with fellow student Michael Palin.

After leaving university, he wrote for seminal 1960s comedy series, including "The Frost Report" and "Do Not Adjust Your Set." At the end of the decade he and Palin, along with Eric Idle, John Cleese, Graham Chapman and Terry Gilliam, formed Monty Python's Flying Circus. The troupe's irreverent humor — a blend of satire, surreal-

ism and silliness — helped revolutionize British comedy.

"Terry was one of my closest, most valued friends. He was kind, generous, supportive and passionate about living life to the full," Palin said in a statement.

"He was far more than one of the funniest writer-performers of his generation. He was the complete Renaissance comedian — writer, director, presenter, historian, brilliant children's author, and the warmest, most wonderful company you could wish to have," Palin said.

Jones wrote and performed for the troupe's early-70s TV series and films including "Monty Python and the Holy Grail" in 1975 and "Monty Python's Life of Brian" in 1979.

Playing the mother of Brian, a hapless young man who is mistaken for Jesus, he delivered one of the Pythons' most famous lines: "He's not the Messiah. He's a very naughty boy!"

A more understated presence than the 6-foot-five-inch (1.95 meters) Cleese or the energetic Idle, Jones was a deft comic performer, who played many of the Pythons' female characters. He was also, among many other characters, a grinning nude organist, Spanish Inquisitor Cardinal Biggles and the explosively gluttonous restaurant patron Mr. Creosote. □



In this Aug. 15, 2018, file photo, Joey Kramer, from left, Steven Tyler and Joe Perry of Aerosmith perform on NBC's "Today" show at Rockefeller Center in New York.

Associated Press

## Aerosmith drummer sues to rejoin band for Grammy honors

By PHILIP MARCELO

**BOSTON (AP)** — Aerosmith's drummer, Joey Kramer, is suing his bandmates because they won't let him play as the band is set to perform and be honored at Grammy events this week. Kramer, a founding member of the band launched in Boston, said in a lawsuit filed this month in Massachusetts Superior Court that he has been kept out of the band after he hurt his ankle last year and missed shows, including part of the band's lucrative residency at a Las Vegas casino. The 69-year-old Magnolia, Texas, resident says his bandmates required him to earn his job back by performing a series of solo rehearsals to prove he could play "at an appropriate level," according to his lawsuit.

Kramer says the band is in breach of contract, arguing the requirement is an "an artificial, made-up and undefined standard" that no other member of the band has been asked to do.

He notes in his lawsuit that singer Steven Tyler, guitarists Joe Perry and Bradley Whitford, and bassist Tom Hamilton have all been recently sidelined with injuries and illnesses and weren't asked to re-audition for

their jobs.

Kramer wants a Massachusetts judge to order he be allowed to participate in two upcoming music industry events.

Aerosmith is slated to receive the 2020 MusiCares Person of the Year award on Friday at the Los Angeles Convention Center.

Alice Cooper, Foo Fighters, Jonas Brothers, John Legend and John Mayer are among the artists slated to perform as the band is recognized for its philanthropic work by the Recording Academy, which awards the Grammys.

Aerosmith is also set to perform a "career-spanning medley" at the Grammy Awards show Sunday night at the Staples Center, where the band is expected to be joined onstage by hip hop's Run-DMC, with which it has had collaborated.

"This is not about money," Kramer said in a statement ahead of a court hearing on the suit in Plymouth, Massachusetts, on Wednesday. "I am being deprived of the opportunity to be recognized along with my peers, for our collective, lifetime contributions to the music industry."

Aerosmith's lawyer and manager didn't respond to emails seeking comment

Wednesday.

But the band, in a public statement Tuesday, said it has invited Kramer to join it as it is honored at the Grammy events, saying there just not enough time to rehearse together.

"Joey Kramer is our brother; his well-being is of paramount importance to us. However he has not been emotionally and physically able to perform with the band, by his own admission, for the last 6 months," the statement reads.

"We have missed him and have encouraged him to rejoin us to play many times but apparently he has not felt ready to do so," the statement continues. "Joey has now waited until the last moment to accept our invitation, when we unfortunately have no time for necessary rehearsals during Grammys week."

In his lawsuit, Kramer says his fellow band members deemed his "try out" wasn't "technically correct" and lacked "energy," an assessment he strongly disputes. "Nothing could be further from the truth," he said in his statement. "I did everything they asked."

Kramer also says it's "devastating" that he is being prevented from being honored on the music industry's biggest stage. □



This image released by Sesame Workshop shows, from left, Grover, Basma, Ma'zooza and Jad with Rami Delshad, who portrays Hadi in "Welcome Sesame," a new, locally produced Arabic TV program for the hundreds of thousands of children dealing with displacement in Syria, Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon.

Associated Press

# 'Sesame Street' comforts children displaced by Syrian war

By **MARK KENNEDY**  
AP Entertainment Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — "Sesame Street" in the past year has tackled everything from foster care to substance abuse. Now its latest effort is trying to help children suffering as a result of the Syrian civil war.

Sesame Workshop — the nonprofit, educational organization behind "Sesame Street" — has launched a new, locally produced Arabic TV program for the hundreds of thousands of children dealing with displacement in Syria, Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon.

"The thing that became very apparent in our work on the ground is how critical the need was for the children of this region and children who have been affected by traumatic events to have the social and emotional skills they need," said Sherrie Westin, president of Social Impact & Philanthropy at Sesame Workshop.

Called "Ahlan Simsim," which means "Welcome Sesame" in Arabic, the show will feature Elmo, Cookie Monster and Grover, as well as two brand new Muppets — the boy monster Jad, who had to leave his home, and Basma, a purple girl monster who befriends the young stranger.

An adorable goat named Ma'zooza adds comic relief.

Each 26-minute show will explore emotions experienced by all kids but particularly relevant to those dealing with trauma and will offer coping skills for feelings like anger, fear, frustration, nervousness and loneliness. In one episode, Basma shares her toys with Jad, since he left his behind. Some of the strategies include belly breathing and expression through art.

A variety show in the second half of each episode offers creators the chance to bring in local celebrities and attract an adult audience to hammer home the

message. "The humor has to be there always, which is the 'Sesame' spirit," said Khaled Haddad, an executive producer.

"Ahlan Simsim" will premiere Feb. 2 on MBC3, a pan-Arab satellite network that reaches 20 countries in North Africa, the Gulf and the Levant, as well as YouTube and national broadcasters across the region. Production is based in the Jordanian capital Amman, with input from writers and performers from across the region. Dialects will be diversified, from Jordanian to Saudi.

"We know a lot about children and children's development and what's needed. But we always want to learn from people on the ground," said Westin. "We know that when children can see themselves, identify with these characters and when they can relate to the story lines, we are the most effective."

Targeted for children ages 3-8, the show will steer clear of the larger political, social or religious issues. "To the best of our ability we are not making political statements," Westin said.

"The spirit behind 'Sesame Street' has always been it doesn't matter if you have purple fur or yellow fur," said Scott Cameron, a two-time Emmy Award-winning producer who serves as executive producer of the new show.

"It's a place where children can feel safe and supported and where real things are tackled — like fear of the dark, frustration or loneliness. We try to always do it with comedy alongside the heartfelt."

The show is at the center of a wider push together with the International Rescue Committee that includes direct services, including home visits, classrooms and health clinics, all enhanced by Sesame materials like storybooks, puzzles, games and videos. One episode, for example, will show Jad terrified of going to the doctor and then will

explore that fear.

"It's more than a TV show. It's a massive intervention," said Cameron. "It's a world where children and their families can feel safe and secure."

And it's a world where the media content is meant to be a portal into a fuller, broader set of humanitarian assistance."

The program was initially funded by a \$100 million award by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. The LEGO Foundation then awarded an additional \$100 million to deepen the play-based learning of "Ahlan Simsim" and gave Sesame Workshop the chance to expand to Bangladesh to serve families affected by the Rohingya crisis.

Since the Syrian conflict broke out in 2011, some 5 million children have been displaced internally and outside Syria, according to the U.N.-backed Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic. Its report this month said the youngsters have been "robbed of their childhood" by violations from all sides.

"Sesame Street" has had a presence in the Middle East for decades, starting when the show "Iftah Ya Simsim" premiered in 1979 in Kuwait, followed by local Egyptian, Jordanian, Palestinian and Israeli versions of "Sesame Street."

This time, to assess which early childhood interventions work best in crisis settings, Sesame Workshop is working with New York University's Global TIES for Children center to independently evaluate both the direct services and mass media components of the program.

Creators hope the lessons learned in the Middle East can be translated to other regions, just as things "Sesame Street" learned in American inner cities can help all children. "It will reach children throughout the Middle East but the benefits will be to all children," said Westin. □

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SAT 1:50 | 4:50 | 7:50 | 10:50

SUN 1:50 | 4:50 | 7:50

PBP MON-FRI 3:50 | 6:15 | 9:10

SAT-SUN 3:20 | 6:15 | 9:10

TURNING

MACKENZIE DAVIS | FINN WOLFHARD

T I I E

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

MON-THU 6:15 | 8:30

FRI 6:15 | 8:30 | 10:15

SAT 1:50 | 4:00 | 6:15 | 8:30 | 10:15

SUN 1:50 | 4:00 | 6:15 | 8:30

PBP MON-THU 5:00 | 7:15 | 9:30

FRI 5:00 | 7:15 | 9:30 | 11:40

SAT 2:45 | 5:00 | 7:15 | 9:30 | 11:40

SUN 2:45 | 5:00 | 7:15 | 9:30

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DOLITTLE

ROBERT DOWNEY JR. | ANTONIO BANDERAS

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

MON-THU 5:50 | 8:15

FRI 5:50 | 8:15 | 10:40

SAT 3:25 | 5:50 | 8:15 | 10:40

SUN 3:25 | 5:50 | 8:15

PBP MON-THU 4:20 | 6:40 | 9:00

FRI 4:20 | 6:40 | 9:00 | 11:20

SAT 2:00 | 4:20 | 6:40 | 9:00 | 11:20

SUN 2:00 | 4:20 | 6:40 | 9:00

SPANISH

PBP MON-FRI 5:05

SAT-SUN 2:45 | 5:05

BAD BOYS FOR LIFE

WILL SMITH | MARTIN LAWRENCE

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

MON-THU 7:50

FRI 7:50 | 10:30

SAT 2:20 | 5:05 | 7:50 | 10:30

SUN 2:20 | 5:05 | 7:50

PBP MON-FRI 5:50 | 8:35

SAT-SUN 3:05 | 5:50 | 8:35

CXC

PBP MON-THU 5:10 | 7:30

FRI 5:10 | 7:30 | 10:00

SAT 2:50 | 5:10 | 7:30 | 10:00

SUN 2:50 | 5:10 | 7:30

PBP MON-FRI 4:00 | 6:40 | 9:20

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WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PBP MON-THU & SUN 9:10

FRI-SAT 9:10 | 11:45

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JUMANJI

DWAYNE JOHNSON | JACK BLACK

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PBP MON-FRI 3:50 | 6:30

SAT-SUN 1:10 | 3:50 | 6:30

UNDERWATER

KRISTEN STEWART | VINCENT CASSEL

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

MON-THU 6:05 | 8:20

FRI 6:05 | 8:20 | 10:35

SAT 3:50 | 6:05 | 8:20 | 10:35

SUN 3:50 | 6:05 | 8:20 | 10:35

PBP MON-THU & SUN 7:25 | 9:35

FRI-SAT 7:25 | 9:35 | 11:40

SPIES IN DISGUISE

WILL SMITH | TOM HOLLAND

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PBP MON-FRI 4:05

SAT-SUN 1:45 | 4:05

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# Everyone invited: 'Great Gatsby' copyright to end in 2021

By HILLEL ITALIE

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — For decades, Jay Gatsby, Daisy Buchanan and other characters from "The Great Gatsby" have been as real to millions of readers as people in their own lives, exemplars and victims of the American pursuit of wealth and status.

Starting next January, F. Scott Fitzgerald's classic Jazz Age tale will truly belong to everyone.

The novel's copyright is set to expire at the end of 2020, meaning that anyone will be allowed to publish the book, adapt it to a movie, make it into an opera or stage a Broadway musical. No longer will you need to permission to write a sequel, a prequel, a Jay Gatsby detective novel or a Gatsby narrative populated with Zombies.

"We're just very grateful to have had it under copyright, not just for the rather obvious benefits, but to try and safeguard the text, to guide certain projects and try to avoid unfortunate ones," says Blake Hazard, the late author's great-granddaughter and a trustee of his literary estate. "We're now looking to a new period and trying to view it with enthusiasm, knowing some exciting things may come."

"I wish it were possible for the Fitzgerald Trust to retain copyright," says Fitzgerald scholar James L. W. West III, a professor emeritus at Pennsylvania State University. "They have been wonderful caretakers of Fitzgerald's literary rights and his reputation. But under our laws all literary works eventually belong to the people. That's probably as it should be."

"Gatsby" has endured in a changing industry and a changing world. It was published in 1925 by Scribner and remains a Scribner book, though now part of Simon & Schuster. The novel, popular with general readers and a standard assignment for students, has sales as dependable as any so-called "backlist title." When Fitzgerald died



This combination of cover images released by Scribner shows the 2018 cover image of the novel "The Great Gatsby" by F. Scott Fitzgerald, left, and "The Great Gatsby: The Graphic Novel," with illustrations by Aya Morton and adapted text by Fred Fordham.

in 1940, fewer than 25,000 copies of the book had sold. Now, worldwide sales are nearing 30 million and more than 500,000 copies sell each year in the U.S. alone, according to Scribner.

Publishers specializing in older works already are preparing their own editions. The Library of America will include the novel next year in a planned hardcover volume, edited by West, of Fitzgerald's work. The Everyman Library, which for years has published the novel in the United Kingdom, will release a hardcover edition in the U.S.

As with such current public domain titles as "Pride and Prejudice," "The Scarlet Letter" and "Great Expectations," cheap paperback editions and free e-book editions are likely to proliferate.

Scribner editor-in-chief Nan Graham acknowledges that sales are likely to fall, but says the publisher is working to hold on to as much of the market as it can, drawing in part on its long ties to Fitzgerald's heirs.

A graphic novel, featuring an introduction from Blake Hazard, is coming out in June. In 2018, Scribner re-

issued the book with a so-called authoritative text, making minor changes based on Fitzgerald's own notes. The introduction was provided by Scribner author Jesmyn Ward, a two-time National Book Award winner who wrote of how she, an African American from rural Mississippi, could relate to Fitzgerald's saga set in Long Island, New York. "Hungry as I was to escape my own little nowhere country town, my own poor beginnings, as a teen I could only see Gatsby's yearning. I was too young to know his wanting is wasted from the moment he feels it," Ward writes. "The seasoned heart aches for James Gatz, the perpetual child, the arrested romantic, bound by one perfect moment to failure."

"This is a book that endures, generation after genera-

tion, because every time a reader returns to 'The Great Gatsby,' we discover new revelations, new insights, new burning bits of language."

Hazard was closely involved with the graphic novel, which features illustrations by Aya Morton and an adaptation of the text by Fred Fordham, who worked on the graphic novel of "To Kill a Mockingbird." Hazard researched various illustrators before coming upon "His Dream of the Skyland," a graphic novel set in Hong Kong in the 1920s that features Morton's drawings and words by Ann Opatowsky.

Morton told the AP in a recent email that she had long admired 1920s fashion for its "structured graphic design" and "fluid, dreamy quality." She called Fitzgerald's novel "incredibly vi-

sual," and was struck by his sense of detail, whether describing cars, emotions or economic status.

"Not only are the hues specific, (blue, yellow, lavender), but what deeply intrigues me is how specific color saturation is to mood and class hierarchy. For example, at the Buchanans, people are wearing white and the colors (greens, reds, peaches), have a very delicate and 'pretty' feel," she wrote, adding that her illustrations also were influenced by car advertisements from the '20s. "To me, this theme is central to the story because within American car culture is the notion, or fantasy, of mobility. In other words, the idea that we have the freedom to physically move to another place and leave behind the old problems or even the old person."

Fitzgerald's novel has been used in other art forms. It's at the heart of "Gatz," an eight-hour stage show from 2010 in which the entire book is read. Several movie versions have come out, from a silent film released not long after "Gatsby" was published to director Baz Luhrmann's high-energy production in 2013, starring Leonardo DiCaprio as Gatsby. Hazard said she enjoyed the Luhrmann film and a 1973 version starring Robert Redford, and imagines other ways the story can be adapted to the screen.

"I would love to see an inclusive adaptation of 'Gatsby,' with a diverse cast," she says. "Though the story is set in a very specific time and place, it seems to me that a retelling of this great American story could and should reflect a more diverse America." □

Associated Press



# Spirit Tourism: Britain sees spike in visits to distilleries

By **LOUISE DIXON**  
Associated Press

Many people these days are thirsting not just for a drink but for knowledge about where it comes from. "Spirit tourism" is booming across the United Kingdom, with artisanal brands and micro distilleries popping up and many global brands distilled here.

Bombay Sapphire distillery, for example, produces its iconic blue bottles of gin in a former paper mill in Hampshire, England. Gin has been enjoying a renaissance, according to the Wine and Spirit Trade Association, and even well-established global brands have been trying to up their game.

"When Bombay Sapphire came out 30 years ago, in 1986, there was probably a handful of different gins. Now we're seeing about 200 new gins on the market every single year in the U.K. alone," says spokesman Sam Carter.

Over 100,000 people a year come through the distillery, he says. Along with tours, Bombay Sapphire offers cocktail master classes, botanical supper clubs, and horticultural tours through the surrounding conservation area.

Bombay's master distiller, Anne Brock, sees the rise of spirit tourism as a response to public desire to "go and meet the makers."

"People are finding their local distillery. They're enjoying that spirit and they're going on from there and exploring," she says.

The classic gin and tonic is in decline, Carter says, replaced by cocktails like the Negroni, French 75, or gin and ginger.

"One of the most important things for us is to get people to come down, create cocktails themselves, feel really comfortable about making cocktails and then be able to replicate them at home," he says.

Brock hopes visitors also get a better understanding of what to look for in a gin.

"You're looking for a balance. You're looking for an overall sort of flavor story in the mouth," she says. "So,



The former paper mill Laverstoke Mill distillery located on the River Test in Laverstoke, southern England, in 2015, that hosts over 100,000 visitors per year at the Bombay Sapphire gin distillery.

Associated Press

you don't want to be left short and you don't want to have it burning down too long, but you want to have a sort of development of flavors."

For a different kind of experience, visitors can travel to The Black Cow Distillery on an organic farm in West Dorset, England, where dairy farmer Jason Barber and his friend Paul "Archie" Archard started a vodka brand in 2012.

Barber's family has been making cheese for over two centuries, and the pair

make vodka from what is left over from that process.

"Premium brand drinks, especially, talk about the quality of their materials and where it comes from, and traditionally, spirits always were made out of what's left over from the table," Archie explains.

He and Barber, he says, have taken something from the dairy process of "a low material value and turned it into, we think, the smoothest vodka in the world."

As well as a distillery tour,

they offer cocktail-making classes, and serve fresh local food in their bar and kitchen.

Barber hopes visitors to Black Cow will see "we're doing something new, we're pushing things along a bit. We're considering how we're farming, considering how we're making things ... And it's lovely to get people to relook at the countryside and view it in a different way."

Don't expect to see production at city speed.

"From cow to bottle it's

probably a fortnight," says Barber. "And if I want to take longer, I take longer, basically. But there's no hurry. And the same when you're drinking it."

Back in the bustling capital, East London Liquor company produces British wheat vodka, three London Dry-style gins and whisky. Based in a historic glue factory in Bow Wharf, the distillery has a bar attached where guests can enjoy a drink while watching production through a glass wall.

"What beats sitting here having a martini, watching it being made?" says founder and ex-bartender Alex Wolpert.

Wolpert says he founded East London Liquor several years ago to democratize booze, producing something local, independent and affordable. The company offers a whisky, a gin and a mixed distillery tour, and Wolpert says everyone leaves with a bottle.

"When they've had that kind of sensuous, tactile involvement in the process, they've been behind (the scenes), they've picked up the juniper berries ... there's a relationship there," Wolpert says. "So, you're kind of almost by default building advocates of what we do by having them in the production space."

Carter advises spirit enthusiasts to sit at the bar and talk to the bartenders.

"If you can find your favorite watering holes where you can trust the bar team to recommend stuff, that's always a great starting point," he says.

Finally, no spirit tourism trip is complete without a visit to Scotland.

Dewar's Aberfeldy Distillery in the Scottish Highlands has been producing Scotch whisky since 1898, and offers traditional whisky tastings, a luxury blenders tour, and a whisky and chocolate tasting tour.

"We're seeing people really want to get in depth. They want to get under the skin of how the whisky is produced, and they want to taste different ones," says in-house whisky expert Simon Robinson. □



People are guided during a cellar tour of the Dewar's Distillery in Aberfeldy, the Scottish Highlands, in 2018, where they have produced Scotch whisky since 1898, and offer traditional whisky tastings, and a whisky and chocolate tasting tour.

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